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Gord Downie (left) has his day in court with Edward Greenblatt

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Nine letter word for peace of mind?



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STEYN, THE SUPERHERO "I know the get it right: this is the second time I've seen him with a gun, and a Stacey in what our a confronted with real danger." *Brian MacKenzie, Toronto*

ALL MARKED MEN "I was about Polytechnic, I was reminded of how we eventually learned that the incident had been completely forgotten. The incident a few years earlier in which a young guard at the Quebec prison facility was never arrested, and I can't imagine, given their information, how any real news story they didn't." *Cheryl MacDonald, Pioneer Press, PEI*

LIVE WITHIN a few kilometers of where the horrible murder and mutilation of Tim McLean took place, but no one privileged the gruesome events in the way Stacy has done. "Where was the chesty habits of the executioners of Robert Dinkelschlag? Where at a time and in a circumstance that would warrant the strongest check possible, were the maniacs Tiers? Every one of us, if we are honest, asks what we would have done in the circumstance. There is a very sick warp in our society, and we should be pro-active in finding out what it is, and not be busily trying to sweep it under the rug of our pseudo benevolence."

John Rothman, Winnipeg



AN MARKETLYN woman about Polytechnic, I was reminded of how we continually reduce the accident but have completely forgotten the incident a few years earlier in which a security guard at the Quebec highway forced us to stand near an entrance to killing all the passengers he could find. But I saw our road fulfilling when Steven began haranguing that we didn't because the professor Louis Liberson at Virginia Tech and professor Lee Gordon Brown and the students at Monash University in Melbourne. When we left taking all the studies of people like the Quebec security guard, when the best we can do is to recognize well-known stories from outside our country, did it mean to say why we behave the way we do?

Robert MacMillan, Brentford, Ont

SYSTEM ACQUIRES Canadians of being unable to tell the truth about ourselves. An informant: "We are probably the best at facing reality. We know that the founder of our country was a drunk and was an unethical campaign fund-raiser—it does not matter Sir John any less."

I WAS DISCOURAGED and shocked by the graphic details that your editors included in Seyo's column. I gazed with all media to please edit your content as though Tim Lickner's family were reading your publication. Having lived in relative to violent crime, I beg of you to use your publication to discuss the relevant issues—specifically the tracking, treatment and punishment of these violent offenders. Let's all stop rehabilitating the gruesome details and support this family in their struggle to come to terms with a spouse that has offered them minimal justice, if any at all.

Frederick Marshall Jr. *Omaha*

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Frederick Marshall, Gaines

SILENCE IS INTENSE POWERFUL. After reading "A mother decides to try out silence" (Hilp, March 13), author Anne LaChase stressed to me the powerful urge to slap her ally if she ever caught her again reading "I am having a day of silence" to me. Unlike her, I don't do passive aggression, preferring the other kind, and I consider the silent version.

George Kell, 87, baseball player: One of the greatest two-strike hitters in major league baseball, he won an American League All Star for 10 of his 11 final seasons in the 1940s and '50s. In 1959 alone, he led the league with 215 hits and had 56 doubles, 101 RBIs plus 114 runs scored.

Maurice Jarre, 84, this composer beginning with compositions for French short films in the 1930s, he rose to become one of the best-known creators of film scores of the postwar era. He worked four times with director Claude Lelouch, producing memorable, Oscar-winning scores for *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Dr. Zhivago* and *A Passage to India*.

banker" (Society, March 11). U.S. history professor Michael Kazin notes that the current financial crisis reflects the bad example set by Jimmy Stewart's character in *It's a Wonderful Life* as a "plucky savings and loan operator," he "gave people homes with very little money down." But comparing American savings and loans institutions of the

IN THE ARTICLE "You, sir, are nothing but a banker" (Society, March 11), U.S. history professor Michael Kazen notes that the current financial crisis reflects the bad example set by Jimmy Stewart's character in *It's a Wonderful Life* as a "glucky savings and loan operator" he "gave people houses with very little money down" but comparing American savings and loans institutions of the

COMPLICIT CONSERVATIVES

HEDMANN'S 153 COLUMN ("The can't-swim-made-money-fishers to take off," Opinion) Paul Wells makes a lot of fine points, but he is wrong to gloss over some of the more dramatic Conservative policies when he says the Harper "government has not changed Canada's underlying ideology any way since he took control in 2006." The expansion of zero-down, 48-hour mortgages began with measures contained in the first Conservative budget in May 2006, when Jim Flaherty announced new rules that were opening the mortgage market to more private insurers. These new rules encouraged the entry of U.S. players

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OPERA IS ALIVE
YOUR RECENT ARTICLE about "silly" opera in the United States ("Our very 'inimitable' new scene," *Music*, March 5) lays out the general

YOUR BRITISH ARTIST is about "safe" opera in the United States ("Our very 'harmless' new season," *ibid.*, March 5) lays out the general

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John Karyk, Richmond Hill, Ont.

THE MORA SOCIETY for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would like to clarify a few points in your article. "No law bans cat-walking, experts say" (National, March 21). Many people have the common misconception that the N.S. SPCA is responsible for taking in all stray cats. The control of stray domestic animals actually falls under the purview of municipal and city animal control.

Ones of pre-1980s opera in the United States. However, an investigation of what is happening in Canada certainly shows a different picture. Canadian opera companies are dealing with the effects of the globalized economy but are also continuing to invent ways outside of the up and go and also other mid-and low-cost. Many lesser-known and new operas that were produced in Canada never saw by opera companies both before and now. The Canadian Opera Company Fund that has been established is an initiative to enhance the quality, quantity and creativity of new opera. We are working to ensure that Canadian audiences will always have the opportunity to explore newly created opera alongside the great dramas of the repertoire for years to come.

James W. Wright *Chair of the Board, Opera, General Director, Vancouver Opera, Vancouver*

TEENS TODAY

Why teenagers in small towns have more sex than big-city kids (macleans.ca/teens/townteens). And the surprising optimism of Aboriginal teens (macleans.ca/aboriginalteens).



BLOGS



PAUL WELLS
Much will depend on whether Canada means it when he says students that Afghanistan can't stay and receives this huge dollar proceeds amnesty province, will pay enough attention to each province's particularities. macleans.ca/paulwells



ANDREW POTTER
"This should be good - a crowd-sourced proposal to help people understand sex issues. Start of the Yahoo answers but for extremely serious people." macleans.ca/andrepotter

PHOTO GALLERY



WEB POLL RESULTS

How do you feel about Canada's annual seal hunt?



It's ugly and cruel, but there are reasons to ban it

THIS WEEK'S POLL: macleans.ca/web

OPENING WEEKEND



Greek romance writer Ben D. John says courts of age in Afghanistan and star films critics like 'The End of the Road' read the reviews at macleans.ca/benjohn

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF LECH WALESA

The former president of Poland and anti-Communist leader was accused in a new biography of being a Communist spy as a young man. Writing on his blog, he called the accusations "disgusting, barbaric, unwarranted slanders." It was the second time a historian has accused him of once helping the Communist secret police. Walesa threatened to leave the country in protest. In response, Prime Minister Donald Tusk called the Nobel Peace Prize winner a "national treasure."

Good news

Car troubles

General Motors and Chrysler have been kept alive for months by taxpayer largesse. Sent to a reformist government in Canada and the U.S. finally put some deadlines and caps on the billions being poured into these companies. Chrysler now has 30 days to complete a merger with Fiat, while GM has been granted 30 days to complete a new restructuring plan. These are still some troubling issues. The White House drawing out the CEO of GM should be a red flag to the public. But these companies have at least been granted one last shot to prove they have a future. And neither what happens, then, is finally an end in sight to the costly drama.

More closure

In Canada, the world will not be with a bang, but an inquiry. Still, the start of the Orléans commission into the Mafiosi-Schreiber saga, after 15 years of manoeuvre, accusations, lies, and delays, is a move to closure. Dismissing the true role the former PM played in an alleged scheme of asset concealment in return for government contracts is vital. As added bonus is the prospect of Northern Schreiber as last leaving Canadian shores. Only this affair has kept the former prime minister from departing to his native Germany where he faces corruption and fraud charges. The unraveling of the mafia, and the potential of his former associates playing a role in the future for anything more?

Shedding light

South Korea's light-on-global-warming, aware-ness protest, seems to have been a worldwide success. The event, organized

by the World Wildlife Fund, has grown exponentially in its three-year existence, with an estimated 4,000 communities in 88 countries participating in 2007. In Canada, Ontario, B.C., Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Scotia all reported drops in power consumption. Toronto's decreased by a whopping 15 per cent. All good, but for one complication in Ontario, where a forgotten candle set a house alight. Next year let's be green and safe.

Insecurity

It takes a special talent to turn a largely ignored blowhard into an international poster boy for farce. But that's just what the Harper government has done with its refusal to allow cholera-stricken MP George Galley entry to Canada over trumped-up security concerns. He is undoubtedly an apologist for extremist groups and odious regimes, but that's not the type of "support" our best seat to court. On our next visit, Galloway

Bad news

surrendering to a Chinese prison for using e-mails off the Net. Google says it's already trying to match local companies. But let's get to our daily music companies—no doubt to fend off lawsuits—effectively undermining the bad habits of China's consumers. It hardly seems that if the long-term goal of creative industries requires the rest of us to pay, so should the Chinese.

Borderline practices

Swing doors, loose and gone is all very well if you put them somewhere else. But according to a Canada Border Services Agency report, drugs—born out of the street—have ended up in handbags, duffel bags, and they're delivered, because guards don't know any better. Other contraband smugglers in unsecured storage areas. And the report identifies problems that could cause court costs, like shoddy inventory, missing paperwork and a shortage of strongboxes. Worse, the agency won't say whether any of its employees have been sending the stuff. Or maybe they just can't tell.

FACE OF THE WEEK



MARCH MADNESS: Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo smashes his fist to start Louisville and got into the NCAA Final Four.

Capping emissions

Ontario's fish and fishers are not to be taken for granted. Health benefits, but could they save the planet as well? A new study says adding fish oil to cod diets significantly reduces their fat levels. Lovin' cod is a big global warming factor, accounting for one-third of all methane emissions. Global warming is a real issue, and another change (or two) comes. Last week, scientists reported efforts to "imitate" the Aztec diet with fish oil, and your dose of CO2 eating, please, were undone by hungry shrimp.

placed to the chair and went home, attracting fire to the marketplace with his ideas. That's the way to make Ontario's economy strong enough to withstand the ravages of an old world.

Soul searching

Google's latest search for the upper hand in the Chinese market has topped the company's homepage. In 2006, the Web giant's search engine was taken over by Chinese authorities to ensure what Chinese users were able to search. This week it announced plans to provide free music downloads,

Hard time

Quebec truly is a distant society. According to data provided to the Journal of Montreal by Correctional Services Canada, the province leads the country in the number of inmates taking entry to incarceration, with 192 prisoners in its nine federal institutions popping Juju's or Celine's. British Columbia, with four provinces, was second with 218 prisoners. More were 186 in Ontario or Atlantic Canada. Inmates must pay for the drugs of their own liking. But the system is under pressure, some of the medical and other costs. Clearly, somebody is getting stuffed. ■

ROGERS

As the world's largest telecommunications company, Rogers Communications Inc. is a leader in providing innovative services to its customers. The company's commitment to excellence is reflected in its recent performance, which has earned it a spot on the Fortune 500 list. Rogers is a company that is always looking for ways to improve its services and its commitment to its customers. The company's success is a result of its dedication to providing the best possible service to its customers. Rogers is a company that is always looking for ways to improve its services and its commitment to its customers. The company's success is a result of its dedication to providing the best possible service to its customers.



President Obama, can you hear me—I'm in town



PAUL WELLS

The Willard InterContinental Washington hotel, at 14th and F, is the place to stay if you hope to score the capital's glamour and history with rub oil on you. The White House is two blocks away. Abraham Lincoln stayed here for weeks before his assassination in 1865. After the ceremony the new President went back to the Willard for lunch, took a nap, snored, and ate beef and cabbage, blackberry pie.

Stephen Harper was there the other day to do some interviews. Later the Prime Minister's Office sent out a photo of the Prime Minister talking on the phone to Barack Obama, who was almost literally a stone's throw distant at the time. Depending on the location of Harper's suite, the angle of the windows, and other variables, they could almost have seemed as close as other while talking. In the photo there is a Canadian flag behind Harper. Did the PMO staff bring it from Ottawa? Does the Willard keep an assortment of national flags in its basement, in case world leaders want to fly so Washington to recognize the President?

Come handy does create the latter theory. As a general rule, when world leaders want to telephone a U.S. president, they don't normally go to the trouble of getting as close as possible to him before picking up the phone. They've got the telephone technology working really well these days. The worse really do stretch all the way to Ottawa. You don't even have to shout to be heard at the other end.

This business of proper distance lives the leader of the free world is an unusual secret to Canadian prime ministers. How does a two-clasp Brian Mulroney want to fish with a tie-die, Jean Chretien wore he would do no such thing, so instead he pulled with Bill Clinton. Harper is the first to go with call.

But of course he was not in Washington (and New York, on the two-day swing) only

to speak to the President. He was also in Washington and New York to speak to reporters. But first, there are reporters in Ottawa. Ah, but they're the wrong kind of reporters. Harper's quibbles with the parliamentary press gallery are legendary and they just keep going. Last year he did an interview with Global TV anchor Karen Newman in Quebec City on the occasion of its 400th anniversary. Newman asked about the business of interviews the Conservatives may once have disdained in front of independent MP Chuck Colman's confidence bureau. Well, that's Karen Newman's wife the PMO has made no secret.



Fun fact: there are also reporters in Ottawa, but they're the wrong kind of reporters

of its determination never to submit their man to the indignity of a grilling at Newman's hands again.

Everyone knows only three questions are legitimate on the occasion of a major municipal anniversary. Anything else is proof of bias. Here's the approved list:

- (1) Gee, Prime Minister, isn't it great that Quebec City turns 400 this year?
- (2) I understand the federal government has been a disaster partner for these 400 years. Please tell us how, that we may marvel from. Please tell us how, that we may marvel from. Please tell us how, that we may marvel from.
- (3) I don't want to put you on the spot, sir, but you're basically the best prime minister Quebec is ever going to get. Don't you agree, and when you think of second-rate alternative Quebecers will regret voting for, do any examples come to mind?

Karen Newman didn't get the memo, so he gave him the list. It is a very long list, and when the Prime Minister turns around, he was changing his. So... Jim White he was elected in 2006 he announced he wouldn't take questions in the National Press Theatre,

so he went across the street to the Ontario Black Boyer. But that venue lacked a special something, so he went down the hall to a little antechamber off the Reading Room. No good. He could change the surroundings all he liked, he couldn't change the audience.

So he went on the road, seeking positive coverage from local reporters most to consist. Apparently this is problematic too. For one thing, it's not exactly rating local reporters these days. Something about the economy. Second, the ones who are left sometimes display a shocking lack of noble obligation. So the road show has been crowded still further, to the studios of mighty Fox and the guest suites of the storied Willard.

But even here there are signs of trouble. First, Fox's Chris Wallace frustrated Harper with the kind of tough questions about the public record that nobody put the big guy in a foul mood. Second, the PMO's staff didn't get a lot of coverage from third parties like the New York Times and the Washington Post. The Financial Times gave him 10 pages, but it's a Sunday thing. The Financial Times is just about the only paper in the world that would have

sent somebody to interview Harper in Ottawa. That it did not.

There was grumbling among Canadian reporters that Harper was talking to key foreign instead of to us. The grumbling was misplaced. Harper talked properly, that he gave some interviews to Canadians too. For instance, he spoke to Canada's most in Washington. But this only deepens the mystery. Canada's most in Washington and to be one of their men in Ottawa. So he was unacceptable in Ottawa and Fox in Washington?

Something about any talk concerns the Prime Minister. He has moved from the street, down the hall, out into the field, across international borders in search of a kindly ear. But I remember Brian Mulroney and Jean Chretien taking questions they listed at the same Ottawa press that Harper could find. They won't find questions from him. I guess nobody likes a chicken. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells visit his blog at www.majors.com/majorswells



JAMIE FOXX ROBERT DOWNEY JR. THE SOLOIST

NO ONE CHANGES ANYTHING BY PLAYING IT SAFE

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE FILM "THE SOLOIST" featuring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. in a heartwarming story of redemption and friendship. The film is based on the true story of a man who was institutionalized for 15 years and how he was helped to overcome his challenges by a man who was once a professional basketball player.

APRIL 24

BASED ON THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY

How did America become the new Canada?



ANDREW POTTER

You know things have gone bad for the left in Canada when even *Conrad Black* starts saying nice things about the place. It is a remarkable reversal of political directions. America has been transformed into a hotbed of liberal and—*sigh*—even social experimenters, while Canada seems a hotbed of reactionary conservatism. Yes, America is the new us, we're the new America, and the Canadian left has to be wondering just where it all went wrong.

The eight years of the Bush presidency allowed progressive-minded Canadians to indulge in an orgy of moral superiority vis-à-vis the United States, bemoaning their mistake that country has almost completely changed course. Acting on the premise that it would be a shame to let a good crisis go to waste, Barack Obama has put his ship of state in a hard left turn, and his countrymen have dutifully gone along with it. Huge tracts of the economy have submitted to massive state intervention even as the President pushes full-on ahead on school reform, universal health care program, and a new energy and climate-change initiative.

On virtually all of the defining issues of America's relationship with war—drugs, stem cell research, gay rights—in a clear Obama trying to push the U.S. away from the tightly ideological positions of the Republican while adopting a looser and far more pragmatic approach. One of his first moves as President was to make more embryonic stem cell lines available for research, which won academic raptures, and left the public scratching its quest approval. The U.S. has joined the UN's Human Rights Council, reversing a decision by the Bush administration, and will back a UN resolution supporting the decryal embolism of human sexuality worldwide (Bush had refused to do so, making the U.S. the only Western country not to sign on.)

Worries of all, ratings for National Public Radio—an institution to liberal even liberals make fun of it—have skyrocketed this year, with Bushmanship for its flagship news and current affairs programs growing by nine per cent over the last year.

Meanwhile, up in Canada, the CBC is laying off 1,000 employees after the Conservatives refused to lend it a bridge loan during the recession. And why would they? The Tories are too busy charming their home voters, introducing measures aimed at starting a funding frenzy over non-existent threats



Meanwhile, our public broadcaster is failing and we've got a culture war over evolution

such as polygamy, illegal immigration, violence crime, and Islamic fundamentalism.

To boot, we've gone and got ourselves our very own culture war. In all of the excitement surrounding the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birthday, a reporter had the cheek to ask Science Minister Gary Goodyear if he believed in evolution. His laconic reply ("I am a Christian, and I don't think anybody should question about my religion or spirituality") was followed by some predictable and vomit-out-back-and-forth over the place of religion in the public sphere.

Wasn't it just a few years ago that The Klu Klux Klan celebrated Canada's embrace of gay marriage, per decriminalization, and anti-life positions by putting a noose in sunglasses on the cover of Orville Michael Adams' book *Five and 10*, which argued that while Canadians were moving toward liberal values associated with attention and personal self fulfillment, Americans were moving away as mass conservative engagement and social and ecological concerns. As Adams noted (with strong satisfaction), Americans were becoming reactionary, jingoistic and national, more likely to see

society as a war of all against all.

For a while there, it was clear that the obvious social and political differences between Canada and the U.S. underscored distinctive and irreconcilable aspects of our respective national characters. So, what happened?

The lesson for the left here is that politics matters, and—more importantly—elections matter. That may seem obvious, but it is something that large segments of the left have been missing for years. Ralph Nader based his entire campaign for president in 2000 on the premise that there was no essential difference between Democrats and Republicans, a grotesque misapprehension that cost *Al Gore* the election and paved the way for the disaster that was the Bush administration. Norm Chabinsky made the same point last fall, telling a CBC Radio audience (or didn't he?) that when we know/learned Obama and John McCain were just leaders of two factions of "the business party."

The Canadian left is far from immune to the sort of ideology. Keep in mind Stephen Harper only got his shot at power in 2006 after Jack Layton pulled the plug on Paul Martin's minority.

It wasn't enough for Layton that Martin was more than willing to be a lapdog to the NDP—he wanted Martin to flesh and play dead as well. If Martin's government had lasted another couple of years, Harper might well have gone sailing back to Alberta, and the liberal Conservatives would be ashed of a party led by a creature pulled by Peter MacKay's loyalist Chabinsky. The Tories are in power while the Liberals are led by a man whose views on the economy, international law, and Afghanistan are virtually identical to Harper's.

Obama's success is that he has persuaded the harder edges of the American left that ideological grandstanding is a poor substitute for big tent retail politics. And until it comes to the same conclusion, the Canadian left is going to have to get used to Canada's status as moral inferiority in the new North America. But there's also a lesson for the rest of the country: the moral high horse might be less to ride, but it is always an uncertain and unpredictable bear. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Andrew Potter visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/andrewpotter

Photo: Maclean's

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RE
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They're the world's envy, but they've made mistakes too. Is Canada's banking system really so smart, or have we just been lucky?



It's not alone. At this week's conference of the OIG, Stephen Harper would have found an amiable audience whenever the subject

ward to freedom system." The notion that "the Canadian system" offers a blueprint for other countries' banking systems has become accepted wisdom in Ireland. For example, they are in no less of a hurry to copy it than we are to copy theirs. They say that Ireland is a land, needless to say, the Prime Minister has not been very busy about trampolining on streets at home, even saying Canadians can't use their casual money and come to their banks' good health. If other countries wish to imitate Canada, who is in a Canadian position to suggest?

But what is the "Canadian system"? And we really as others imagine us, an island of financial prudence in a sea of recklessness? What accounts for this, if that be, so many suggest, our more strict system of oversight and regulation? Or is it the more business-like, risk-averse culture of our banks, by the nature of banking that simple, no-fills model that Volcker thought, where banks take deposits and make loans, but do little else? You know, like they do up in Canada?

While we can trace the origins of this particular model of banking to our earliest precedents on Oct. 3 of last year, with stock markets collapsing around the world and several major banks

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the World Trade Center's recent release of its annual Global Capital Performance Report, a prime responsibility of statistics professionals is to risk the "corrupted" coverage of various national economies across a number of enterprises, or "pillars" of structure, innovation, labour markets, finance and so on. Canada ranked 19th overall in 2005, up from 18th the previous year, a respectable showing, but hardly one showing it burned in the numbers was one striking figure of official interest in this particular moment in the category of "soundness of banks," Canada ranked number one. The world's soundest banking system. That caught people's attention.

The methodology of the report may be flawed, it's been noted, for starters. The World Trade Center's Forum has a list of listed data on each country's banking system: leverage ratios, loan growth, provisions, the sort of thing. Rather, they say, Canadian executives worry they thought their bank's assets were compared to the respective other countries' executives gave in the same question about their banks. As it turned out, our guys thought our banks were sounder than their guys thought their banks were.

Still, there's no denying that Canada's

most have weathered the storm better than most. It's true that we've suffered no real losses since the crisis began (the United States did). By 2008, with more banks likely to fail than those done this year I'm truly in luck if Canada's banks had not to be much worse off their government, if you do consent the \$1 billion—lost raised to \$75 billion, then FDIC failed—in government purchases of mortgage assets through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, not a bailout at all, as the CMHC was on the hook as the insurer of the mortgage company, not acquire insurance either.

And so there, by accidently increasing Canadian banks are healthier than they were, international credit portfolio will expand, even rising by billions next month as the dollar falls, and the market will continue to flourish under markets. As American banks have needed, collapsed, or merged, Canadian banks have none relative to them. Of the 10 largest banks in North America, six are led by yours, four are new Canadian, a decade ago, we had none in the top 10. Just seven years in the world remains AAA rating from Moody's investment Service, Royal Bank and Toronto Dominion—only Canadian.

But their record is hardly unblemished

Canada's bankrupted real estate is the deadly vulnerability mortgage lenders were at the root of the crisis, they did buy them, or either derivative too professed based on them. CIBC, for example, was forced to take a \$3.5-billion charge on its portfolio of mortgage-backed securities last year. All told, the banks have taken more \$20 billion in write-downs since the crisis began—nothing on the U.S. scale, but hardly chicken feed.

The banks also played a small but pivotal role in the collapse of the asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP) market in Canada. What started as delinquencies at first-blown loans was the Canadian banks' refusal to increase their commitments to the issuers of these products as the buyers of last resort. That was no doleful protest, but it's probably not the sort of thing the banks' new-found line has in mind.

What explains the less-than-per performance of the Canadian banks when compared to their international counterparts? For many, the answer lies in the stringency of the Canadian regulatory system, the risk-conscious, by-the-book accounts, in the world. Viewed strictly as prudential terms, there

some truth in that. Where the international standard is, as set out in the first Basel Capital Accord—a 1988 agreement among the world's leading monetary and banking authorities—regulatory elites should no less than in "the capital" (common equity, published in the standard) and equivalent for every \$100 they lent or were owed. U.S. regulators consider a bank well-capitalized at a six per cent ratio. Canadian regulators set the bar at seven per cent.

But it's a long way from this to exploring the relative performances of Canadian and, say, American banks at a simple matter of regulation versus deregulation. For one thing, the actual capital of the Canadian banks has consistently been in the neighborhood of 14 per cent, well in excess of the regulatory standard. In other words, banks would normally be able to raise the capital they need to be safe and sound and in good standing with the regulators. The same is true of the American banks, but the line of the margin against their prudential had a commercial rationale as well as whether representing the ratings agency in reassessing prospective business partners.

For another, there was no deregulation in American banks in the last decade, or certainly none that had anything to do with their willingness to enter oligopolistic markets. Nor was there any real reason to prohibit their increas-



the writer, were out of town "looking into a potential Catholic woman's" far side of her daughter when they received a phone call about the crash on "the side of a mountain or significant roadway," says a source who has been asked, she said, but "shots were fired through a window and door glass." She also revealed that police "have reported to Patrick that they believe this was most likely an intentional act but it was not a woman's marriage and unrelated to Patrick being a judge."

"On a personal note," she continued, "let me say that Joshua and Zaynah hold two different faiths and their upbringing and parents are undoubtedly different. We are confident that our son's strong faith will help him through the inevitable challenges that his reign presents at the beginning and on a day to day basis throughout. It is also our hope that their unique strengths will help them in their new life together."

Their new life began last year, when the would-be couple was introduced for the first time. Joshua, raised a Christian and home schooled until his teenage years, won't say how they met, but when Zaynah contacted on a recent Internet site to present Omar's command decision, he was in the background. They were married in a private ceremony three months later and now share a multimillion-dollar apartment with Khadi's nine-year-old daughter, Umiel, and their life together was not public knowledge.

The January wedding was Khadi's third, and the first one not arranged by her late father. At the age of 17, Zaynah was promised to an Egyptian Egyptian named Khalid Abdulrah, but the union lasted only six months. Her second, too, a Moroccan known as Samer Saif, also ended in divorce—but the 1999 reception lives on in infamy. Among the honorees were Omar ben Laden and his daughters, Ayman al-Zawahiri, (Omar Khadi, by the way, didn't particularly like either of his sister's husbands). In 2009, during a civil war with intelligence agents in Guantanamo Bay, the messenger said "he felt that every person whom his father said [Zaynah] was with ended up embracing her."

Her latest husband is under no obligation to explain to the public how he and his wife were introduced through religious differences, and when asked, Zaynah politely declined. He also refused to discuss any other personal details, including his current job or career aspirations. At Khadi's wedding, she was dressed in Omar's plight with his parents, he offered this response: "My family is supportive of my marriage and of our extended family, and they believe in the need for justice for all Canadian citizens. We have faith in God and we have faith in justice and we have faith in the Canadian people to do the right thing." ■

Are tourist buggy rides inhumane?



PETA says ban them. Others point out that the horses get massages.

BY PHILLIP CORNER • A recent accident involving a horse-drawn carriage in Victoria has reignited a spirited debate over whether it's ethical to allow horses and buggy rides for tourists in urban areas.

On a chilly Saturday morning in the B.C. capital, a horse and rider for carriage were suddenly halted from an Ogilvy Hotel parking lot, turning in a 30-year-old driver to the ground. No one was hurt or the carriage, but the advocacy group PETA responded with a 14-page letter to Victoria Mayor Dean Fries stating that the city should ban carriages. The group complained that they subject horses to harsh weather conditions and the toxic fumes from cars.

The letter noted that several cities have already banned the practice, including Toronto, Los Angeles, London, and Beijing. (Toronto has done so since 1998, when city council ordered carriages in the downtown core under pressure from animal rights activists.) New York City created a "no carriage" zone when it was waging its own battle against horse-drawn carriages, agents. "It's not solely a question of animal welfare," he says, the carriages are also a threat to public safety. "It's a huge safety risk to have a horse and buggy in midtown traffic with all these cars and trucks." He adds that he's running for mayor this year, and if he wins, he'll outlaw buggies in New York.

Still, many Carriage Clubs, such as the West End and Ogilvy Hotel, still have them, and have been in the past. Maria Thomas, the owner of Sumner Meadows Stables in Saanich, B.C., doesn't see what the fuss is about. Thompson says the animals used to drive carriages successfully before and exclusively prospered. "The horses are well fed, well cared for—the carriage," she says. "They even get massages." ■

Canada to shut down all prison farms

BY KATE LUND • Life those of countless other farm workers, during Gallant's day would begin to farm. As his workers tended to pigs, cattle and hens, he prepared out of meat from livestock. The farm where Gallant worked a typical in many ways—except it's organic grounds, and all the farm work was organic. "I enjoyed going to work," says Gallant, who was recently released. "Being at the farm was awesome. I learned a lot."

Across Canada, an estimated 100,000 organic farming farms. About 300 inmates take part, doing everything from milking cows to firing equipment to producing food that's fed to fellow inmates. This summer could be their last, however: the government recently announced that Canada's prison farms will be shut down over the next two years. "We determined very few inmates were involved with agriculture," says Christine McGee of the Correctional Service of Canada, adding that the CSC spends about \$1 million annually on the program.

The National Farmers' Union, opposing the government to reconsider. Betty Brown, who sits on the NFU's board of directors, argues that agricultural skills are in demand and by shutting down the farms, she says, "they're saying agriculture's not important." The union suggests the move may be a cost ploy, as the CSC's farm program in Ontario alone are reportedly worth \$12 million (CSC issue).



THE FARMS are the staff of life in the U.S., but they'll be history here

announced by them for the land. Others note that the farms help inmates interact with the community, and provide a chance to learn food skills.

But while Gallant says he learned useful skills on the prison farm, he admits it's now four months after his release and he has yet to find a job. The major hurdle, he believes, isn't his lack of skill or the stigma of having a criminal record. "It's not looking good for me," he says. "But that's another story." ■

CAPITAL DIARY

SORRY, I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD.

As the Liberal coalition to support the Conservatives in passing the budget, Winnipeg NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Lee continually shouted "shame, shame, shame." One Conservative MP, who felt the big spending budget was supporting, yelled out, "Judy, Bill Brundage would be rolling in his grave." A fellow Conservative had to quickly call the MP that, in fact, Brundage was still very much alive. The MP asked how that was possible then, Judy, Allan Brundage would be rolling in his grave? "Only to be told that the former premier of Saskatchewan (1971-1982) was also still alive." "Well, who's dead over there?" the frustrated Conservative said in a huff. "He was informed that Tommy Douglas was a safe bet."

HE'S NOT THAT FRED PHILIPS

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Ontario Speaker Muel Kijewski kicked a reception in honour of the Disruption Institute's "Passages to Canada," a program featuring speakers who talk about the Canadian immigration experience. At the reception, one of the speakers, RCMP Sgt. Rajat Singh Dhillon, talked about being the first RCMP officer to be able to wear his Sikh turban and keep his beard. The sergeant was credited his emotional moment when his fellow RCMP officers asked if they could try on his turban. He proceeded to wig it on around several of the attendees. Also speaking the reception was Fred Philips, an uncle to Ontario's NDP MP Mark Holland. The uncle has the same name as the actor who once paraded behind the website www.fredphilips.com (the poster also launched www.gadgets.com over that country's



acceptance of same-sex marriage.) Unlike Philips says his name is a cross to bear and that he has opened doors, it's not as if he was named after his late grandfather and it would be too upsetting to his grandmother.



RCMP Sgt. Rajat Singh Dhillon (top left, with a beard) and Judy Wasylycia-Lee (top right) and Allan Brundage (top right) at the reception. Bottom: Rajat Singh Dhillon (top left) and Muel Kijewski (top right) at the reception. Bottom: Rajat Singh Dhillon (top left) and Muel Kijewski (top right) at the reception.

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MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON WHO'S NOT ROLLING IN HIS GRAVE AND THE \$450 LAUREN HARPER BOWL



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Trudeau to pay for the 35-year-old in Trudeau's high school drama and French classes when the MP was a teacher in B.C. As part of the Olympic Torch procession, a ball hockey rink had been set up. Xavier grabbed a hockey stick and started playing. Asked if he was a hockey player, Xavier said, "It looks like he does now." It was the first time Xavier had picked up a hockey stick. Grigoriyev says he hopes that if Xavier does take a winter sport it's something like snowboarding, so he doesn't have to get up for a jam hockey practice. Right now, though, Xavier's favourite game is basketball, and his favourite sport is hockey. Grigoriyev says he loves the game.

CONSERVATIVE CANDY CRISIS
Labour Minister Kristi Ambrose's nomination in the House in B.C. Oda, minister of international co-operation, which means Ambrose has access to the House Oda has to be a Conservative. But recently Ambrose has been leading it a tough time, it may be time for a fresh pick. Oda admits the leader, which in three weeks old, maybe a little late. But not so old that "you bring it on the desk it doesn't," she jokes.

LAUREN HARPER SEATS MARGARET TRUDEAU
At the Ottawa Human Society's fund-raiser, the dog dog Lauren Harper pulled out the most money at the silent auction. \$499. It was out of all the other clothing items, including one by Margaret Trudeau. ■

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EDGING IN FROM THE COLD?

The U.S. is making overtures to Syria—hoping to isolate Iran

BY MICHAEL PETROU • George W. Bush never nicknamed Syria on his list of countries making up what he described as an "Axis of Evil," but it was clear that he considered the regime of Bashar al-Assad a security threat that needed to be isolated and punished. In April 2002, shortly after his last speech and at a time when the United States still seemed willing and able to deal with hostile regimes, Bush said the time had come "for Syria to decide which side of the line against terror it is on." He later accused Syria of sponsoring Palestinian terror groups, threatening pollsters in Lebanon, and doing little to prevent thousands from crossing its border with Iraq to attack American troops there. Bush pulled the U.S. ambassador out of Syria in 2005. He imposed wide-ranging sanctions on the country. And in October 2006, as one of his last major acts while still in office, he approved a defense postcard on a Syrian village near the Iraqi border where a senior al Qaeda operative was reportedly sheltering.

Now, only three months into his presidency, Barack Obama has radically reversed that predecessor's policy of isolating Syria and is instead reaching out to Assad as part of a broader U.S. policy of engaging with Arab world's enemies, including Iran. In March, the United States sent two senior envoys—State Department official Jeffrey Feltman and CIA's director of the National Security Council— to Syria for talks. Inad Maswada, the Syrian ambassador to Washington, has been recalled to the State Department after being shunned for years. And a State Department spokesman said Syria can play "a positive role in the region by trying to help bring peace and stability to the Middle East."

Assad, for his part, says he would like to meet Obama and is open to resuming indirect peace talks with Israel, which were suspended during the war in Gaza. He's not far from a series of interviews with Western newspapers. A photo of one such interview, helpfully made available by the Syrian government, goes as far as depicting Assad smiling broadly and smiling at the camera. Assad is a warm and daffy hard-core malleable on his lips. The image in the Middle Eastern dictator's eyes is that of a great man, and the message is the same: trust me.

Part of this apparent thaw between Washington and Damascus is driven by necessity. The peace talks Israel opened with Syria in 2007 made America's cold shoulder policy less tenable. But there's more to it than that. American policy makers see Syria as a lever that just might modify the balance of power in the Middle East by weakening Iran and undermining Israeli enemies. Syria is Iran's primary ally and gives Iran a foothold on Israel's doorstep through Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in Gaza. Telling Syria away from Iran would help isolate Iran, a regime Israel considers a mortal threat, and would cut off support to militants with which Israel has fought their wars in the last three years.

AN ANTI-ISRAELI demonstration in Damascus with a picture of President Assad (below), Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon (top right), Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad



"The ultimate goal is to change Syria's behavior on a variety of issues—on its interference in Lebanese internal affairs, on its support for Palestinian terrorist groups that oppose the Palestinian Authority, on, most importantly, acting as a hard bridge between Iran and Hezbollah," said Elliott Abrams, a senior fellow for Middle East research at the Council on Foreign Relations, in an interview with McClatchy. "There are an ultimate United States goal, and there is a new that this really requires a kind of strategic reorientation on the part of the Syrian regime, away from Iran."

and Hezbollah and toward the West."

There were American goals when Bush was president as well. In fact, a deputy national security adviser in the former president's Obama played an important role in shaping this strategy. But at the time, Bush believed Syria could be persuaded into an operation, and he probably shared a faint hope that the regime might be overthrown sometime. Looking back at this policy today, Abrams says the



Assad appears to be open to resuming indirect peace talks with Israel

United States was successful in isolating Syria for a time, but accomplished little strategically "in the narrowest sense, the efforts to isolate them succeeded," he says. "If you go down deeper than that and say, 'Well, that's fine, but when did that achieve? Did you get them through that policy to change their conduct? Then the answer is no.'"

According to John Leland, co-director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of California, Obama's new approach Syria because Bush's efforts to isolate and confront the regime failed. "George Bush had made non-engagement policy into the ground," he says. "Non-engagement wasn't working. We've got to go back to realism."

Leland cautions that while realism suggests the United States should talk to Syria, it's not realistic to expect Syria to turn away from Iran. Inad Maswada, Syria's ambassador to Washington, has told him in no small Syria and Iran share too many common—on Lebanon, in Iraq, and regarding Kurdish minorities in both their countries.

Similarly, Leland says, Syria won't sever ties with Hezbollah. The military and political movements efforts to subvert the influence in Lebanon, a country Syria considers part of its sphere of influence (if not a de facto province), and one that it needs as a gateway to the wider world. The drive from Damascus to Beirut and the Mediterranean Sea is a short one through Lebanon. Without the outlet, the Syrian capital is isolated behind Lebanon's coastal strip.

Mugham Naji, a special assistant to Hezbollah and a senior fellow at the Washington Institute, agrees that Syria is unlikely to be "flipped" around to no longer support Hezbollah. Lebanon is simply too important to Damascus. He thinks the more that can be hoped for is that Syria join in some of the more radical Palestinian organizations in arms and operations.



Even if that day isn't imminent, a shift is occurring regarding Syria's relations with the United States and Israel. Syria is edging in from the cold. The United States, meanwhile, is changing the way it deals with countries in the Middle East and doesn't like George W. Bush's broad freedom could be brought to a decision through force, isolation, and the support of non-governmental groups movements. His success in the Middle East were limited. His hard-line arguably helped force Syria's 2005 withdrawal from Lebanon, and Iraq and Afghanistan now have a greater chance at democracy than would have been possible without America's intervention. But he didn't transform a region that strains itself in a liberal direction. Obama believes these two world powers should be engaged and can be persuaded to change their behavior. It's too early to judge whether Obama will have better results than Bush. But so far his one

achieve remains the extent to solve: Peace between Israel and the Palestinians will require punishing aggressors about lost lives, degrees of sovereignty, and refugees. Lebanon will not make peace with Israel and Syria does, and the situation is complicated by the fact that it is Hezbollah, not the Lebanese government, that controls Lebanon's border with Israel.

The outcome of an agreement between Israel and Syria are consequently more straightforward. They hang on the Golan Heights, which Syria lost during the Six Day War of 1967. The fact that the current rift between Israel and Syria is a quiet leads many in Israel to think they could easily withdraw from the Golan Heights facing the risk that the Israeli side would withdraw from both southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. Since 1967, in 1996 and 2000, the two countries have come close to a deal.

"There have always been and there are now people in the Israeli military who think this is something that is quite attractive to look at," says Elliott Abrams. "Because if there were a deal with Syria, it's reasonable to think there would then be a peace treaty with Lebanon. And then Israel is at peace with all its neighbors. They also believe that the real threat now is Iran. So if you could do a deal that separated Syria from Iran, someone certainly the Israeli military thinks it's worth doing." Abrams, however, like Leland and Naji, is skeptical that a deal is imminent. He does see a silver lining to even the biggest signs of engagement between Syria and the United States, though, because it will make Iran nervous and make Palestinian terror groups who will worry about finding their Damascus headquarters shut down one day.

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FORGETTING? Left: American troops walking a 1951 nuclear test at Yucca Flats, Nev.

'Well, it wasn't really a war, was it?'

U.S. Cold War vets are asking for recognition for their service

BY SUSAN MOHAMMAD • The Cold War was characterized by armistices, but it was not enough to silence chronic chronic L'Espresso. Nearly two decades after ended, the former mechanized of a nuclear missile also in North Dakota was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) that he says materialized from his service with the Strategic Air Command in the late '50s. He was drafted for Soviet

They are also pushing for a medal honoring their contributions (as a supporting Britain as well). While some politicians have supported the vets (Hillary Clinton announced July introduced the Cold War Medal act of 2013, 2006 and 2007), one obstacle, the Cold War vets act, is lack of support from other veterans. "If you didn't get shot at, your service doesn't register—a 'war' was more than you were in," says L'Espresso. While Canadian Cold War vets didn't have their own medal (the government does recognize those who served under NATO/US/UK), the Special Service Medal (SSM) is awarded to

they are made to order vets regard recognition. A spokesperson for the British Cold War Veterans group, Tony Marshall, says he's not sure how the government will recognize the vets and medal, and that the Cold War Medal was recognized in 2002. "The Cold War was not the NATO alliance sticking to it as task," says Marshall. "It was a war, and it was a war for NATO to need medals for joint operations. One need only look at the Italian and

and most recently in Afghanistan." British veteran pensioned Prime Minister Gordon Brown's offer last year asking for a service medal, but was told that they were only issued to those who have been subjected to risk and "suffer" "injury in a conflict which is a reasonable prospect during normal service activity."

According to the American Cold War Veterans organization, in many to 12 million U.S. veterans, like L'Espresso, are affected by the lack of recognition. Now these "forgotten" U.S. vets have begun demanding the same pension and benefits as other veterans, who collect a pension on the basis of serving during a recognized war, serving a full military career, or being injured while in service

MUSSOLINI REDUX?

Italy's Berlusconi unites the right, with him at the centre

BY SUSAN MOHAMMAD • Last weekend's spectacular 50 million, three day event at Rome's starting Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party with Alessandra Napolitano, the post-Franco heir of Mussolini's blacklists, was designed to face the historic consolidation of a conservative force in Italy. But the criticism marking the event of the centre-right People of Freedom Party (PDL), in practice, instead of a platform for the power hungry prime minister to state his plan for even more authority, suggesting the need to help modernize Italy and give it a more stable government.

As the closest friend of the PDL, a one-time race, close Berlusconi was the only one to lead the 72-year-old prime minister used his speech to outline the right-wing party's supporters to say he wanted to change the constitution to give them more power—“even without” the involvement of the opposition. While Berlusconi has yet to get on exactly where these powers are beyond wanting to appoint and fire ministers as he pleases, he also wants to reform the president's largely ceremonial role to resemble a French *président* and make the president's direct authority by the people. Political analysis says Berlusconi wants to remove the president's role to include powers beyond dissolving parliament and calling elections, such as proposing laws and firing foreign policy, which he wants the job for himself when his term as PDL ends in 2013.

If he succeeds, Berlusconi (who is at his own trial of office) would be the most powerful Italian politician since Benito Mussolini, who was in power from 1922 to 1945. “Recent experience has shown that the head of government should have more power, which are not presently in place,” he has supporters. But even before his speech was over, speculation began that the alien relationship between Berlusconi and the co-founder of his new party, former Alessandra Napolitano leader Giulio Andreotti, was again tense. That was notably absent from the assembly on Sunday. On Monday, he told journalists he disagreed with the left-wing-turned-political plan to

change Italy's constitution without working with the opposition, but said he was waiting for more details regarding the changes.

That fit would speak to the prime minister's surprise victory in the past, he has criticized Berlusconi's proposal to restrict voting in parliament to party whips instead of individual members. He also criticized legislation proposed by the government plan to restrict rights on living wills, suggesting the government had caved to pressure from the Catholic Church in drafting a bill preventing people from stating they do not want to be kept alive in a permanent state.



THE LEADER: Meeting with Paolo Berlusconi

An ambitious and skilled politician in his own right, with an eye on Berlusconi's job, the former neo-fascist youth leader it could end with moving his party away from its disgraced past. But he's made several steps to limit Berlusconi's power. Berlusconi's anti-Semite laws, and was once proposed as a candidate in the Holocaust Museum. He has also connected with Mussolini (there are over 1.3 million Mussolini in Italy, which has a population of 58 million) by speaking on against immigrant discrimination. The prime minister, by contrast, is a political figure with a talent for engaging critics with promises of control at sea in the name of governance. The uncertainty between the two men, there are doubts whether the PDL will succeed in becoming a strong political force—once with the Italian left in shambles.

But Berlusconi's maneuvering may have another purpose. “The history of Italian politics is very uncertain,” says Michael Shale, an author and expert on Italian politics. “People on the left would rather than forgetting then vote for Berlusconi.” Berlusconi is 72, this is probably his last term in office. He's not necessarily doing this for the Italian right or for the party itself. I think he is trying to establish a legacy for himself.” ■

Succession: opening up the palace

BY RACHEL HENDLESON • British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called for an end to the discriminatory laws of royal succession last week. Then, almost at once, his government killed a private member's bill that would have started the process, claiming it was not the “appropriate vehicle.” After Friday's decision, Brown—who publicly denied the prevalence of male bias and the ban on royal marriages, Catholics, which dates back to the 1701 Act of Settlement—was accused of peddling “spin” to boost his popularity. Still, with any such action requiring approval from all 16 countries where the Queen is head of state, he says he'll move it at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in November.

The PMO did not respond to questions from Bloomberg regarding Stephen Harper's position on the issue. But senior Fraser University professor Andrew Heard says the Canadian government would readily agree to changing laws that “run counter to modern democratic values.” Some experts, though, warn that in 10 months where the Queen is little more than a figurehead, the succession question could ignite debate about the relevance of the monarchy. The issue is, in fact, attracting attention in Australia, where voters narrowly rejected a proposal to become a republic in 1999.

But in Canada, it's difficult to stoke the fire of anti-monarchist sentiment. A 2007 Angus Reid poll did find that 51 per cent of Canadians support changing laws with the monarchy (but few people are openly up for that, as Heard says, “there is a strong sense of tradition involved”). The anti-royalist, says University of Toronto professor Sidney Axler, stems from the changing demographics of the population. “Mostly young in this country goes bigger all about the monarchy.” But that doesn't mean some anti-monarchists aren't hopeful. Says Tim Treadwell, assistant director of Citizens for a Canadian Republic: “The whole issue of the monarchy is a house of cards. All it's going to take is a little more attention and it's going to come tumbling down.” ■

Zimbabwe's fight for law and order



BEATEN white farmers: waiting in the police and courts is crucial

BY RACHEL HENDLESON • Embattled Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is calling for the arrest of all people using white-owned farms. Such “seizure” have “violated” the country for too long, said Tsvangirai—an apparent challenge to President Robert Mugabe, who released the ongoing violence as recently as Feb. 18 in his birthday address. It's high time, every say. Not only is denying the appropriation necessary to restoring law and order, but the international donor community—which has begun loosening the pump sent by Zimbabwe—“requires it,” says Zimbabwean news Michael Brown, who teaches African politics at Michigan State University.

For Tsvangirai, the timing suit will be whether the police and judiciary “do as he says,” says Tsvangirai. Long used to repress and terrorize political opponents of the Mugabe regime, neither body has changed under Zimbabwe's five-week-old coalition government. Instead, an “armed political struggle” over their issues has at the heart of the so-called “unity government,” says Tsvangirai, adding that it's “very hard” to be optimistic about Zimbabwe's current condition.

Meanwhile, the dominance of the country has reshaped proportionally. Zimbabwe has the highest percentage of orphanage in the planet: three-quarters of its 14 million people are orphaned, and life expectancy is 58 years. And acts of “unspeakable horror” are coming to light, Tsvangirai says. This week, the South African Broadcasting Corp. aired the documentary *White House* featuring testimonies of death camps, obtained using cellphones and hidden cameras, showing resistance, beatings, prisoners—some political—in jails in Harare, Madoke and Beit Bridge. He estimates that of bodies lying up by the roadside, and of sleeping in crowded cities next to dead prisoners infected with AIDS. ■



THE QUEEN: 'Little depth of emotion' over succession rules

THE ILLUSIONIST



Garth Drabinsky created his own rules, but even great shows must come to an end
BY ANNE KINGSTON

Everything one needs to know about why Garth Drabinsky personifies one of the most illusionist frolics in Canadian history can be gleaned from document 89660, submitted during his trial. It's the ultimate forensic evidence: a draft of a love letter the impetuous wrote to his former girlfriend, Karen Poppo, months before his theatrical empire, *Livest*, collapsed in 1991.

The 18-page missive, sealed from Drabinsky's office, offers a private glimpse of the quipster that propelled him to risk all. By name, gossamer, frustrated, and beautiful, the note reveals an agonist with odds-defying optimism and refusal to concede defeat. Believing a man who audaciously grasped the best office power of the *Phantom of the Opera*, his language is romantically charged, with talk of "unrestrained and emotional union." Then, on a penultimate digression, he complains Poppo hadn't gotten around to reading his 1991 autobiography, *Close to the Sun*.

Like all love letters, it's part sales pitch. Poppo was apparently displeased with the relationship's progress, Drabinsky writes her grievance, which include not being introduced to his parents and the way his pilot filled in curtains for him. Yet, with the play it forward optimism that propelled his career, he expresses high hopes for "Gothic's future." He alludes to new "financing," presumably the US\$22 million Michael Ondaatje invested in *Livest* in February 1989, which put in motion discovery of accounting fraud. "After a wonderful Christmas, we entered the year buoyed up with a new confidence that in February my financing would close, you would move to Toronto... [and] by the end of March I would be out of my marriage."

Drabinsky seemed to be in heaven or some land of promise and idealism, which he blamed on his "loss of optimism and confidence that if I am depressed I will not fail. I am not a pay doctor, but I am too much of an optimist. I over-evaluate. I have learned my lesson. The task was simply much larger than

I appreciated." He had's been too bright, he explains: "I never wanted to add confusion to yours or debate your confusion to mine."

The admission, ironically, has equal irony: for *Livest* investors. It also explains, in a nutshell, the reason for the company's spectacular rise—and fall. Friends speak of the naive pride that propels Drabinsky to work 16-hour days. "He never allowed any thing to get in the way to stop him, which is the only way he could ever have accomplished what he accomplished," says the film producer Robert Lantos. "There was no obstacle that couldn't be climbed or overcome or bulldozed through." A former colleague has seen the darker side of that drive: "He must see. He will not brook a performance. He won't tell anyone who fails to get it or see it or agree. If they don't, they to not just writing but speaking and singing and dancing."

The Crown submitted the letter as proof Drabinsky had financial mismanagement of the \$100-million fraud. And actually it corners financial distress he writes of being "strangled" by "an impossible level of personal debt" for the previous five years. But Justice Mary Lou Bennett, who last week found Drabinsky 50 and Lantos co-founder Myron Gottlieb, 44, guilty of two counts of fraud and one of forgery, didn't buy the money-as-creative capital, noting in her 96-page ruling: "The creative was the continuation of the company."

And, as the nine-month trial revealed, cost-cutting of the company crafted defying long before that, however. The series of his struggles after he contracted polio in 1971, as was there, and of the series of painful operations during his childhood that left him with a limp. In *Close to the Sun* he recalls worrying the camera would capture a when he accepted a 1991 best musical Tony award for *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

The notion this theatre could provide an alternative reality first occurred when he was a high school student at St. Michael's. The *Imaginary World* "I thought myself to be part of it," he writes. His first taste of the business of show occurred shortly after, at the Canadian National Exhibition, where he had a job analyzing handwriting, or, as he describes it, "bulle analysis." It taught him valuable lesson: "We assessed how much love people were, how accepting of the music showed us."

This early dependency on another take-away that keeps drive a crowd. Drabinsky arrived on the Canadian film scene in the late '70s as a double threat: a stock salesman who'd also written the book on entertainment law, finally, after being called to bar in 1976. His *Movie Players and the Arts in Canada: The Business and the Law* became the industry bible. He dabbled in producing theatre and in varying degrees of success. Heagent the 1977 movie *The Silver Party* with Christopher Plummer.

Early on, he dangled a lynch for employing business tools—tax law, public offerings and clever financing—to create art. In 1978,

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Yes, as he admits in his book, the project exhausted his own line of credit and meant on borrowed 60 per cent (above any interest). A small group was so disgruntled they sued Drabinsky and his partner for fraud. The case dragged on for 12 years before it was dismissed in 1994.

Drabinsky's creative empire was based at Cineplex. The original multiplex concept was the brainchild of Sam Taylor, a veteran industry executive. But Drabinsky came up with the novel idea of building an 18-screen theatre in a parking garage under the Eaton Centre. With its marble floors, maroon armchairs, copper-trimmed tile and red velvet curtains, the theatre became the place to go to see the latest hits and the place to go to see the latest hits. Other investors followed: entrepreneurs and writers that offered private, and saving commercials before features. By then a serious collector of Canadian art, Drabinsky had the theatre as a private space to showcase Canadian artists.

Cineplex went public on the Toronto Stock Exchange in 1984 and Drabinsky came on board in the mid-'80s. Throughout its breathtaking, debt-fueled North American expansion, the company was dogged with charges of aggressive accounting. Still, it attracted major investment from the Bratman family, then power



financial ruling, seizing the business. But, if the side of Drabinsky's autobiography is any indication, with an allusion to *Livest*, the flight in Greek mythology who plummeted to earth after daring to fly too close to the sun with his wings, not one of the rules of classic mythology apply to him. "I think the husband can give up too soon," he writes. "He should have gotten himself another set of wings and taken off again." When he wrote those words in 1995, newly married as a member of the Order of Canada, Drabinsky appeared to have done just that, having crashed to earth once with his flame-out at Cineplex, only to rise once again at *Livest*.

The tale of Drabinsky's spectacular success

he searched the first Canadian public film offering, a candidate, to finance The Chicago, starring George C. Scott. Gottlieb, then the president of Bay Street brokerage, awarded the deal. Bay Street was shocked by his audacity, and by Drabinsky's drive to prove for a lawyer, producer and distributor, says an industry insider. "He was legal but had pushed the limits to the max degree."

Drabinsky shut down the sleepies in an interview with *Madras*. "What's going to perpetuate the business?" he asked. "The assets?" The gaffers? No, it's the entrepreneur. "Soon after, when told the meeting story might be critical, Drabinsky took the extraordinary step of writing the press so

about MCA, which took a 67.7 per cent stake in 1986, leaving Drabinsky and Gottlieb with only eight per cent. The pair's bold and uncalculated strategy to become an end-run management resulted in their ouster from the board in December 1989. They took with them the handling for their next best friend: Cineplex's money-losing live entertainment division—Toronto's Paramount Theatre, which Drabinsky acquired in 1986 and paragonically established, and the Canadian rights to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, which had been playing there for two months. MCA subsequently acquired Cineplex's own writing, but nothing ever came of it.

At *Livest*, Drabinsky engaged up the spec-

task, Grisham managed the money. The opening of *Brooklyn* was the first in North York, City, in 1997 reflected his MO. "Carlin knew he needed an extraordinary guy to generate press," says Stephen Goto, who ran Live!s's concert music programming. A controversial review of Jerome Kern's *Showboat* (the film) "All of the notes from New York were skimming there," he recalls. "It became an instant like event." To launch the smaller seasonal club, Grisham took several friends against Duane Krieger's *Kismet*. "To engage the reigning opera diva in the world to sing to 100-150-seat recital hall in a suburban location is not a death wish," says Goto.

Money helped. DeLorenzo was known for treating—and paying—big talent better than anyone: “I could bring you a parade of stars who would lie in front of him or if he wanted them to,” says a former colleague, who recalls the rich deal struck by Colin Williamson, the original Phantom in the first *Torpedo* run. “Hingeon discovered Garth had been a movie producer. So they went back a contract for a movie. They wanted part of the house, a car, whatever, and Garth signed it back.”

Those who dared cross him were treated more harshly. "If you even raise a query that can be interpreted as a challenge," says a former colleague, "it's almost politergic in response. When he goes, he goes *micra-freely*—very, very loud and very obscure, it's not close to physical as I've seen without landing a blow."

"The many former colleagues remain loyal and, speaking of Drahmky's sensitivity and modesty: 'It is interesting in the human condition, and stores that depict injustice,'" says Anne Allen, a Levent resident-director. "What struck me was his vast interest in every person he was seeing and where the arts were at and where they should be going."

Unbridledly spent every detail—from concept to fabric—on search for uniqueness. The big-budget production team that changed the ecology of Broadway. Shewart was a three-week-long extravaganza, with 20 scenes, a crew of around 170, 300 costumes, and eight computers controlling sets, sound and lights (cost: \$1,670,000) a week to mount, a hard day's record, as was the CBS-4 charged for an orchestration. Lever's advertising spending, about other shows, to advertise deftly, to ergonomic know the company couldn't be taking money, says an insider: "It defied the two of financial genius." But no one dared speak out. "They still needed me."

Everything Debraley staged was tailored to blow away expectations. Likewise, all her later business flouted industry practice. He ousted all Debraley's "mentally integrated women" remnants of the old style were artists that offered unparalleled creative freedom. He showcased money to be moved from one show to finance another. As the Debraley Corleone was revealed, Lovers' itself was

Levin, a white male associated with former Los Angeles District Attorney Block. He presented himself as a defender of artistic expression. "Conspiracy is in art an arbitrary authority," he explained. "I'm only a member of the Writers Club in 1994." Yet in 1981, when he learned that a Toronto Star columnist had collaborated with a Canadian police officer in writing a book criticizing Canada's practice of throwing communists in jail, he found a judge to issue an injunction to nullify the column before the next day's edition. Late that night, the paper laid it over him. He used his huge advertising budget as a lever, says a colleague. "He advised Plimpton even though it was sold out. Maybe it was for the gross price of Garth Bar, you'll be hard to find any negative report on Plimpton. You'd also surely see anything negative about Garb."

In 1995, an on-site investment analyst Alex Wachs wrote a letter to Forster after Devinlyski presented himself as a fiscal adviser in an interview. "I am rigorous—rigorous!—on the expenditure of funds in this corporation," he said, propping the desk before adding: "This company does not have a full-time vice president." Wachs, a cousin of Caterpillar's accountant, pointed out Levent was recommending more cash than it generated and employing sophisticated accounting techniques to postpone the day of reckoning.

Levent returned with a \$10-million bid last year. After balking for a year, Warner agreed to pay for an apology written by Levent and placed in select business publications. He also agreed to a gag order that precluded him from discussing Levent for three years, with one exception: "If we hear from regulators called, 'I was free to talk to the press,' he said. "But they never did." He figures the case cost him \$150,000. By the time his order expired, new investors had exposed the scam, and Levent of April 1997.

breast his shoulders for a smaller stage, becoming a consultant for his loyal friends including General Black, Frank Sironach, and Lums. He organized the "Parade With Int-Cultural Weekends" at an Ontario resort with various performers, including Dawn Keefe and the National Ballet of Canada. "You could hear the grunts and groans and see the sweat on the dancers," says Waller. "He wanted people to understand what was required to perform."

In 2002, the year he and Gottlieb were charged criminally in Canada, Dubois announced plans to stage a revival of the 1960 Broadway play *The Doctor on Broadway*. "My intention is not to wither and die but to keep working," he told the *New York Times*, insisting that he expected no trouble finding financial backers and mounting the production from afar through a general manager.

His ambitious found fuller expression at Visual Bible International Inc., a forerunner in a company traded in the U.S. over the counter market that produced Christian Bible drama (VBC's *Drabinsky and Gottlieb* were hired in 2002 to produce *The Gospel of John*). Then chairman of the board, Steven Scalet, a Toronto dentist, was concerned about their involvement, but Drabinsky charmed him into a 15-minute meeting to which he

and Gottlieb showed up with 30 huge three-ring binders. "They spent three hours showing me point by point how they were innocent," says Small. "He persuaded me."

Soon, however, the film was dramatically over budget, Small says. Nothing was conceded: "A job for half a million went to the person Garth thought was the best." Several production assistants quit.

Drabinsky persuaded the board the film should have limited theatrical releases in major markets. "He became convinced he could win an Oscar," says Small. Over the showman, he wanted to generate buzz with a \$500-a-piece charity gala, inviting religious thought leaders. Concerned the plans were beyond the reach of the company, Small required

'TEN YEARS OF TORTURE HAVE BROKEN HIM,' ONE FRIEND SAYS



WITH ANDREW Lloyd Webber and Hal Prince (top), Ekasuth Winitud-Dech (bottom left) and Neil Truong (bottom right)

more personal event: his wedding to Elizabeth Winifred or Torrance's Four Seasons home, narrated by old friend-y-colleagues, including Phyllis, Chita Rivera and director Elia Kazan. The next year, Drabinsky sold his reality show Triple Sensation to the CBC, partly as a cross between *Bravo's* *Inside the Actors Studio* and the auditions series in the now-filthy Elliot. Drabinsky is executive producer and a judge on the show, which features young contestants competing for a \$150,000 performing arts scholarship.

Dravinsky expressed confidence he'd be vindicated, says one friend. "He said, 'Don't listen to the Crown Prince. Listen to the delirium. They're going to blow them away.'" Dravinsky declined to be interviewed, but from any dispute he is a credible reference, the police say.

decade is broken into." This is a man who has been subjected to 10 years of a financial torment," Lerner says. "He has been stripped of his dignity, of all of his assets, of his liberty to leave the country, his negotiations, of everything he's ever had and has had to lose the largest of friends. So of course he does have the same bluster he had 25 years ago. Far from it. This has managed to break his spirit before the judge found him guilty."

Yves Deschamps revisits his January 2001 months before his trial began. Deschamps used Triple Sensation producer Al Gagliardi when she left to pursue another project. The two had a business as well as a relationship. "Also, I knew how to manage Garth, and stay people from walking out against someone close to the show who compares Deschamps's behavior to that of a spoiled ruler. It's 'You're deserting me and I'm going to punish you for it' or 'You've chosen someone over me and that isn't how I do it.' I ride hard everything with Garth, I'm a former colleague." And the unbelly of pride is shame. He demands everyone look up at him because otherwise they're looking down at him.

The prospect of a permanently grounded Dralinsky, of course, is at odds with his own self-mythology. As he concludes in *Glasnost and the Sun*: "It never stops, I just never, ever stop." Sentencing arguments began next week, Dambinsky and Gornlib each face maximum 34 years in prison. Were this another story, it would end there. But the plot turns from this opens live on. ■

'WHEN HE GOES INTO FRENZY IT'S VERY LOUD AND VERY OBSCENE'

the accounting division every bit as sophisticated as the budget spreadsheet. When he was moved into these positions, in one example, a net loss before cost of 543 million was "adjusted" to a profit of 34 million. Income was boosted, pre-production costs transferred to fixed assets and to holding inventory confidence and show the board and the company's stockholders that on

Dechinsky's willingness to arbitrate, often from scratch, is

Drabinsky and Gottlieb face 16 counts of securities fraud in New York, where it is a crime to trade on inside information if convicted. A civil suit and Exchange Commission suit by OSC charges Drabinsky with calling a press conference to announce his resignation as chief executive officer of American and Canadian Energy Corp. and ill-conceived

ed in surrender to U.S. forces, becoming fugitives based. Desbrosky with

The *Cost of St. John's*, narrated by Phyllis Kato, premiered at the Toronto film festival to critical praise, though DVD sales were sluggish, in part because of competition from Mel Gibson's blockbuster *The Passion of the Christ*. Still, Drobosky and Gontch were lined up to produce the *Book of Mark*. Then came another lawsuit, launched by Visual's former chief financial officer, that alleged the two were in "de facto control over the business and affairs of Visual Bible" and exercised "power and authority as if they were directors or officers." Drobosky brought all the lawsuits to "judge," in 2004, the RNCM launched an investigation into whether Drobosky and Gontch's unbroken

EMPLOYEE
OF THE
WEEK

PRISONERS OF TIME AND DAYCARE
A person works cops, picking litter beside a Maryland highway last week, noticed ticks and became a day laborer. A green truck driver found a two-year-old boy wandering down the center line of the road and handed him to prison guard Gary Kershner. While police searched for the boy's parents, the cops' kids shared their lunch with him and watched over him. They were as much entertained by the child as he was by them. "Kershner said

ECONOWATCH

A WEEKLY SCORECARD ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN NORTH AMERICA AND BEYOND

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

It is with the Obama administration's decision to offer more aid to GM and Motors CEO Rick Wagoner withholding federal aid as long as he remained in the top job, it capped a week of fusées, finger pointing and argument over who is most to blame for the world's financial crisis, moribund manufacturing and sluggish Greenly, not-burned? Somewhat regulators and boards? Classic positions? How about all of the above?

"I don't understand the thought process it is today to screw up a bank but it's not okay to screw up an automotive company. You're telling me we had not play with the state the other had to bring him in pack of matches." —Barry Kishel, CEO of Pioneer EQ



"You know, you can blame the CEO, but the boards of directors are supposed to be the police on duty."

—Gerald Lutz, managing director of Seigel Partners



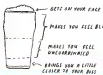
"This crisis was caused by no blackboard or money or by no poor person. This crisis was caused by arrogant behavior of some people that we white, blue-eyed." —Luis Inacio de Silva, president of Brazil

"It's just too easy to keep apoplexy on Wall Street. And if you noticed, that's exactly what the politicians could be that they're trying to divert our attention away from Washington's own responsibility for the debacle." —Niall Ferguson, economic historian, Harvard University

"As we all know, the job of the Fed is to take away the punch bowl once the party gets started. Unfortunately, as we only did they are take it away, they added vodka, whiskey, gin and all kinds of toxic stuff to it." —Howard Kohnen, chairman, P&G Monitor

OVERDRIVEN by Jason Logan

FIL 7:30 AM AFTER WORK DRINK



THE WEEK AHEAD

THURSDAY U.S. factory orders for February are expected to show another decline, albeit a smaller decline than January's 1.9% drop. **FRIDAY** U.S. non-farm payroll numbers for March are expected to show another 150,000 jobs lost, with the number of the unemployment rate to 6.5 percent. As well, the Institute of Supply Management will report to March reading on the service economy. **MONDAY** The highlight of a slow week for Canadian economic data will be Monday's report on building permits for February.



STEVE MACH

The papers will tell you that Canada is not "officially" in recession yet. They won't stamp it with the "K" word until they see two consecutive quarters of negative growth. Fair enough, but the stats are quickly coming out of the "I believe it when I see it" crowd, and a quick look over Canada's GDP report for January will tell you why.

The economy fell by 0.7 percent in the first month of January, making a third straight month of contraction, and the results are widespread. Twelve of the 28 industry groups declined, as did all of 21 manufacturing sectors. In fact, manufacturing, wholesale trade and construction all shrank by more than three-quarters a month before. The price suggests a near-collapse is underway in all those sectors. Consider that another 11 months like January and we'll be looking at 8.4 per cent economic shrinkage for the year—far more than even the most dire predictions heading us this year. As CIBC's morning chief economist Avery Shenk said, "if this were to keep up, recession talk would soon give way to serious depression speculation."

Put another way: "The December-January decline marks the worst two-month performance for GDP in at least 11 years," remarked Benjamin Reiter, an economist at RBC Capital Markets. "If GDP manages to stand just in February and March (which might be wishful thinking), the economy would be on pace to contract as much as 10 per cent annualized rate, a record since 1961."

So why, then, is there no panic in the streets? Simply put, economic data is a reflection of what has happened. And public mood is a reflection of what's expected to happen.

So when Shenk said he believes the darkest hours of the storm passed at the week after Christmas, he's speaking for a lot of us. In other words, things will start to feel better by the time the data actually gets here. Indeed, if past downturns are any indication, people will continue losing their jobs for months after the economy begins to turn around, and we will be publishing reports about job losses for months after that. So, more and more analysts and investors are coming around to the idea that the worst of the pain may be over, even though the damage isn't yet paid.

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THE GOOD NEWS

Bailly capel

Yes, the embargo faded a bit this week, but it's not a home life range year unless noted. Stocks often hit historic highs as month ahead of the economy, so hopes for a second full recovery are still alive. The Dow is now up 16 per cent from the bottom in March 5. The TSX is up 16 per cent. Most amazing of all last week the Nasdaq had a run for 2007. Yes, it's down 12 per cent from a year ago, but still.



Feeling less paunchy

The American public is taking small steps out of their comfort zones. The latest University of Michigan monthly survey showed consumer confidence rose slightly in March, from 18.3 to 18.7, and the Conference Board's survey showed consumer confidence rose slightly in March, from 18.3 to 18.7.

Since fed a lot poorer than a year ago, they don't expect things to get a lot better soon, but they're increasingly confident that things won't get markedly worse either.

THE BAD NEWS

Growth? It sure is.

If you, you've probably heard, gross domestic product is taking a pounding, globally. No more so than in the U.S., where GDP was down 6.3 per cent in the fourth quarter. But it seems gross domestic income—which is all the things like personal income and corporate profits—is suffering even worse. In theory these numbers should match, but they rarely do, and some people at the U.S. Federal Reserve think GDP is the more reliable and meaningful measure. In the fourth quarter of last year, it plunged by 7.6 per cent—the biggest drop since 1980.



Since loans are on fire, but it's the speed of decline that has economists worried. The delinquency rate on mortgages backed by off-balance sheet and shopping malls has more than doubled since September, leading some to worry that commercial real estate defaults could be the next storm to hit the beleaguered banks.

Turtling on trade

It seems tough times have taken their toll on the world's trade. The WTO last week issued a blunt warning about the rate of protectionism worldwide, predicting that trade will shrink by more than 10 per cent this year. Mexico, for example, lifted tariffs on U.S. goods last month alone. Good times might make good neighbors, but they make everybody poorer.

THE ECONOGAUGE

Our weekly indicator of the prevailing mood among investors and consumers

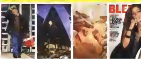


GRAPH OF THE WEEK: The housing glut

The latest report on home sales is really a wake-up call. Home sales fell 10 per cent in 2007, and a similar drop is expected by 18 per cent in 2008. The problem is a dearth of buyers, combined with a huge stockpile of unsold homes. At the current pace of sales, it would take 22 months to sell all of the U.S. homes currently on the market.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES



► CEO Rick Wagoner has lost a company willing away from General Motors, but not enough to save the company. GM offered him out packages to 22,000 retirement eligible workers, but just over 2,000 have accepted. An analyst said, given the choice between the uncertainty of trying to save the uncertainty of going to \$10,000 each and a \$25,000 voucher to buy a new car, most people would choose to give up a regular paycheck.

► Feeling plus about the dwindling value of your house? Be glad you don't live in a skyscraper in Boston. The John Hancock Tower, New England's tallest office building, sold at a foreclosure auction this week for \$186 million. It sold in 2006 for \$240 million.

► It appears we have more to worry about these days than inflation. Americans spent \$18.1 billion on consumer goods last year, a drop of nine per cent from 2007, according to the American Society of Price Indexes. The biggest losers: Appliances (down 19 per cent), family packages (down 18 per cent) and home furnishings (down 17 per cent). What needs improving when you can barely afford to eat?

► This week's signs of things to come in the print media business are hard to read, the often-say magazine, has shrank up on print edition, going from 100 to a 10 per cent drop in ad sales and an 18 per cent drop in newsstand sales. The New York Times, meanwhile, is asking for a 10 per cent pay cut for its employees to "Voluntarily" take a 10 per cent pay cut per year in return for 10 days off. For those keeping score: economy 96, print media 0.



Generationntame

Exclusive Report
For the first time
in ages, fewer teens
are drinking, using
drugs and having
sex. What's going
on? BY CHARLIE GILLIS

**YOUTH
SURVEY**

It's kind of making for a mood. The 17-year-old was at a party last New Year's Eve knowing full well that liquor would be flowing. And it was like she's never tasted the stuff. And it was typical teenage fun: Otis was running with your typical crowd, and the same that night might have been a rave, from Judd Apatow comedy. There was a booze-fueled bust at the home of a girl who is an acquain-

ance of Asia's ex-boyfriend ("I'm not really close with her"), plus a rare gym fight from the folks to get out and enjoy herself. If ever there was a time to indulge, this was it.

Strange, then, that such old-fashioned fun should have stopped her hand when the strong drink came around. "My parents' opinion has always been a huge thing in my life," the Grade 12 student admits, sounding sheepish. "It's not so much the punishment I would get if they found out I'd been drinking. It's that, if I ever disappoint them, it makes me feel like, weird." When there was school. "The people who party in lockstep, and I want to go into biology as an engineer," she explains. "I'm going to have to take some pretty hard courses. I won't be able to miss school all the time."

By taking a pass on the punch and tepala this night, Asia has contributed to one of the most remarkable shifts in adolescent behav-

ior in recent memory. Those timeless hallmarks of teenage rebellion—booze, cigarettes, drugs and sex—are officially out of favor, according to the latest results from Project Teen Canada, an ongoing survey whose in-depth portraits of teens date back to 1984. Also, but according to youth has fallen seven percentage points in the last eight years. Smoking has plunged to under levels, while marijuana use, though still higher than was 20 years ago, is well down from its crest in 2000. As for sex, well, if teenagers are having as much of it as an older adult like, they're certainly not bragging. Fully 56 per cent of respondents say they never have it at all.

To the Grade 12s, the University of Lethbridge sociologist who oversees Project Teen Canada, the survey picture speaks to a tidal shift in values—one that reaches across lines of race, gender and geography. These practically anyone can remember, adult society

has grappled with the fact that the new generation is that, though with desecration, as headed for dissipation. Baby boomers were as susceptible to the vice incentives as anyone they were, after all, the experts in marijuana and dropping out. So imagine their surprise to learn that their children and grandchildren are turning their backs on the no borders ethos, and that 800 new crop of teens loathe for some of the very conveniences their folks rejected. The desirable retreat from the sexual zone is only one sign of their dissent, says Bibby. "They appear to be aping for things that were important to their grandparents," from monogamous relationships to 1950s style necker and bowties. From a parent's point of view, this is as good as rebellion gone. Strutting clear of drugs? Building a stable future? These are teenagers we're talking about, right? But it does pose an interesting question: In an age of unprecedented

personal freedom, with the modern rigidity of race and opportunity spread before them, why are teenagers getting so good?

Y ou'd have been hard pressed to find an expert who would have called it five years ago. Unbuckled from the dictates of religion and unburdened of social convention, the so-called "millennials" were heading into adult adolescence of the critical moments that governed their folks. And more than a few pessimists foretold disaster. By 2000, the late-time Bibby and his team with stacks of 100 values, bookstore shelves were crowded with titles like *Teens on the Edge* and *Risky Children in a Socially Toxic Environment*. But if Project Teen Canada adds up as anything, it's that our fears are founded on a fairly insipid notion, namely, that opportunity would necessarily lead young people to indulge. In fact, drugs are actually available in over 70 per cent of teens responding to Bibby's survey; it is not difficult to locate marijuana or heroin. It's the proportion reporting regular or occasional use of the stuff that falls by 16 per cent in the last eight years. More surprising still, teens are actually less permissive toward cannabis than their parents. Only 38 per cent accept legalizing the drug, versus 44 per cent of older folks. Sure, gone for drinking. While social advances wrought through the 1990s that the liberalization of liquor laws would lead to a spike in teenage alcohol abuse, today's youth are less interested in drinking than their counterparts in the previous decade. Roughly seven in 10 report drinking alcohol regularly or occasionally in 2000, that number was closer to eight out of 10.

But nothing deters conventional wisdom quite like the responses to Bibby's queries on sex and relationships, which are demonstrably rooted in values we assume are on the wane. Today's teenagers report having slightly less sex than youths were 10 or 15 years ago (Bibby Asia's last says she won't list anything in her way of her future personal freedom, with the modern rigidity of race and opportunity spread before them, why are teenagers getting so good? as a time when springing play was more than a casual dick away, while placing a much greater emphasis on right more conscious on reasons like loyalty and love. Nearly nine out of 10 respondents said they disapprove of sexual affairs outside marriage, and fully 60 per cent said they disapprove of premarital sex in cases where the partners merely "like" each other. But factor in love, and the kids go all mucky. Fully nine out of 10 said they accept premarital sex in cases where the people only loved each other, with 70 per cent saying they not only accept such relationships but approve of them. Clearly, marriage isn't as important to them as the first step behind it. Not, for that matter, is sex. How, then, did this moral and social rebus come to pass? At least one cause, says Bibby, can be found in the well-founded, if child, principle that familiarity breeds contempt. "When we're talking about drugs or divorce, they've gone through these things, they've experienced them," he says. "They've had a chance to a lot of reflecting, and they're not just reading about this stuff in books." In the case of marijuana, the mythology appears to be draining the drug of its potency as a symbol of rebellion. Moreover, it emerges are associated with references about the health effects of tobacco, so even before cigarettes were forced by law under the counters of our service issues, kids seem to be distancing against marijuana to make them. "We're ridiculously wary with advertisements," one 17-year-old explains in a Madwatch matter-of-factly.

The streak is a generation that tends to consume more up to a point, less, so on moderation and managing the risk in ways older people could scarcely imagine. Jesse Lepore, a 17-year-old from Victoria, tells the story of an entrepreneur meeting his and his Grade 12 classmates held over the question of whether to allow alcohol at his year-end graduation party. A majority favored a dry event, even though the unsanctioned party will take place off school property. Still, says Lepore, "the moral message was not of what to do for the ones who want to drink, and I thought that was interesting. I mean, we even saw around survey afterward. I've never been an advocate of choosing to live your life one way and not taking other people how (olive them)." On an individual level, none are doing anything a remarkable ability to self-correct. Ben Jackson, a 17-year-old from West Vancouver, was deeply at odds with his parents over the past couple of years, and increasingly found himself in higher and just. "In Grade 8 and 9 I'd been at the top of my class," she recalls. "In the next two years I started socializing and drinking and my grades dropped. I mean, the numbers were taking

lous." So after a prolonged period in which she lurked from party to house party, she signed up for an outdoor campfire summer run by Carletonville's Education, an organization for troubled teens. Today, she's teaching at a new school and is in the process of choosing a university to attend next fall.

Like many of the youths surveyed in Project Teen Canada, Erin is motivated primarily by a desire to build a stable adult life. "I see myself at 40 years old, married to some one for the long term with a family, settled down somewhere," she says. And in fact, the 2008 survey found that a full 47 per cent of adolescents—the highest percentage ever—now rate family life as "very important," up from 39 per cent in 2000. There was also a significant increase in the proportion who expect to get married, up by six percentage points. The proportion who plan to have kids is up by an amazing 11 percentage points. Perhaps most surprising was a huge increase in the number of youths, both male and female, who want to go to church. Since 1992, the number hoping for more of a "lifestyle family" has sagged from 33 to 43 per cent.

The question is how they'll do it when they have little in the way of an example. The wife of a Quebec firefighter, Bobby notes, has shocked even it's not to expect the role models of their parents, the most divorced generation in Canadian history. But usually what will there be to hold loved ones together in the old days, organized religion would have

Before we give the kids all the credit, though, it's worth pondering the role of adults in producing such a downward, well-adjusted generation. Bobby points to the organized recreation and society has sucked into reducing teen lives—from addition to recreation to the construction of skateboard parks. "Just think of any kind of problem that breaks out in a school," he says. "Think of the experts and the professionals who come in to help deal with these things." For some reason, we seldom try to calculate whether all this social engineering is yielding benefits. Is it possible the boaters got a few things right?

More neglected still is the role of individual parents. While many moms and dads have grown up in broken homes, or seen their own relationships fail, they are no less determined than previous generations to steer their kids onto solid ground. That means teaching bad habits such as honesty and trustworthiness. "We may have chosen not to go to church," says Jennifer Parker, a 34-year-old mom in Toronto, Ont. "But a lot of

our beliefs are still moral beliefs, and we're conscious as parents that our kids' values are going to have to come from us." The task can be daunting—teen lives because of technology's power to quickly away. Understanding today's teens requires at least passing familiarity with a disorienting array of new gods. "We have to keep up with Facebook, Twitter, chat," says Parker, "and the moment we figure out how something works, they're moved on to the next thing."

Still, wherever parents are doing secret to be working. When the Project Teen Canada team asked respondents to name their greatest influences in life, eight out of 10 named their fathers, nine out of 10 cited their mothers. Both figures are notably higher than they were in the '80s. Better yet, teens don't seem to view their folks as mundane scolds. A surprising proportion—more than 70 per cent—actually said they get enjoyment out of their parents.

Of course, no one's about to declare the end of teenage angst. Sure, a remarkable reduction in teen drinking is encouraging news,

LUPINI's after-grad was going to be the last, but they didn't want to ruin it for those who do like



It's true: Fewer teens are drinking, smoking, using drugs and having sex

	2000	2008
Per cent who drink alcohol	76%	71%
Per cent who smoke	37%	22%
Per cent who use marijuana or hashish (regular or occasional)	37%	30%
Per cent who never have sex	51%	56%

set a template, connecting marriage, well-coaching children into the world and generally acting down the formula for a stable and upbring family. But today, only one in 10 young people attend church regularly. Breaking with the past will require a new social model that adapts old-fashioned values to modern reality.

The first outlines of such a model are starting to take form. On one hand, today's teens put the same stock in the nuclear family as their grandparents' grandparents, yet these days, most are comfortable if that pattern slips or even how, or in a broken people of the same sex. The important thing appears to be the underpinning: more than 80 per cent of teens rate honesty and trust as the most important values in their lives.

INFORMATION BY
DEBORAH STEINER

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but the 70 per cent who say they believe it will rise high. So too is the 50 per cent who have intimacy with a drug or alcohol problem, but no discerning to the growing gap between men and women, well, the real world. It's all well and good to see what Abby wants "upgrades" on the love their parents lived. But it would be nice if the proportion of youth who follow the news had't declined by 11 per cent since 2000 (it is the most played in generation ever). It would also be interesting if the time teenagers spend simply sitting and thinking wasn't being consumed by computer games and texting.

In light of these facts, Abby expects strong resistance to his findings from the very teen crisis apparatus he partially credits with all the good news. "The experts act almost annoyed when you suggest kids are actually looking a little better," he says. Some of that blowback stems from genuine difference of opinion. But a lot grows out of popular wisdom coming out of the United States. Abby points to the work of education professor Diana Lavee, whose book *So Stay Sober* has stirred concern on both sides of the border that revealing clothing and explicit media content is driving kids toward sex as an escape strategy. Yet Statistics Canada reports that fewer teens have sex annually since before the age of 15 than was the case in the 1990s.

In the end, the kids will likely follow their own instincts. While they might be taking silent cues from their parents—and might even seek help in times of crisis—they've been told for adult authorities who worry about their futures. Jesse Lapine, the 27-year-old from Victoria, summed up the sentiment in a recent guest column for his local paper. "Adults have generated a number of teen stereotypes," he writes. "There are inconspe-

'Teens are rude, sex-obsessed and drink too much? Yeah, well same goes for adults.'

table, untrustworthy, rude, sexually obsessed, lost, inclined to drink to excess, like drugs, eat badly. . . . But how about the adults who lie, drive drunk and do drugs, Lupine adds? What about the corporations run by adults that market junk food and sexualized clothing to youth? What about the parents who buy their stuff for their kids? "Frankly," he concludes, "having worked up a rather adult sounding rant, it's a wonder me's not coping as well as we are." ■

ON THE WEB: For small-town teens, after hours chat kiosk mckinnon.com/smalltowncafe



Teen girls in charge

When it comes to sex, teen girls are starting to act more like boys

BY CASHY GULLS It may be every parent's worst nightmare: when it comes to what teenagers appropriate sexual behaviour, teen girls are starting to think a lot more like boys. The latest survey by Project Teen Canada shows that adolescent girls increasingly aren't having more sex than they used to—in fact they're having less—but are having a drastically different attitude. Rather than passively waiting for a romantic partner to come along, they are more likely to find one themselves, and have sex on their own terms.

The data shows that nearly half of female adolescents now say it's acceptable to have sex

after a few dates out together, up from 35 per cent in 1996. During that same period, attitudes among male adolescents hardly budged. Secondly, the proportion of teen girls who say that "making out" is okay after being with someone a few times has rocketed up from 79 to 94 per cent, which almost puts them on par with the guys, who are at 96 per cent. Finally, Abby, the University of Lethbridge sociologist heading Project Teen, says the numbers reflect the fact that teen girls are "catching up" to their male counterparts.

"The traditional script of male-female relationships in which the male is the initiator and controller is rapidly eroding," says Alex McFadyen, research coordinator of the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada. "That base fact explains a kind of convergence in attitudes and behaviours in relation to 'sexuality.' Both he and Abby agree

that this change has been a long time coming. The social revolution of the 1960s sparked a process of "the internalization of attitudes" regarding gender equality and sex behaviour, says McKay. "Western culture has become more accepting of sexuality, and has been more willing to face up to the reality that adolescents are sexual beings."

Of course the fact has always been that if you take the taboo out of teen sex, these things could go ballistic. But the opposite seems to be happening. According to Abby's research, the percentage of youth who report being virgins is going up. In 2006, 56 per cent said they'd never had sex, compared to 51 per cent eight years earlier. McKay adds that Canadian teen pregnancy rates are declining, and on one side, and Statistics Canada confirms that fewer adolescents under the age of 25 are sexually active now than in the 1990s.

Abby says it's because being comfortable discussing sexuality and being more tolerant of various behaviours doesn't necessarily translate into having more sex. "Obviously things have become much more open," he explains, "but they've also become much more optional. So one has the freedom to engage and the freedom not to engage." Sena Morris, a 20-year-old University of Lethbridge student, agrees. She says that teen girls can now be more open about having sex without being labelled as a "slut." But on the other hand, "having abstinence is okay too. It used to be so black-and-white whether you're having sex or not—but now it's a fine line either way."

In Abby's view, these good news. "There's much more of a sense of being in control of their sexuality," he says. One finding in particular that may raise eyebrows is seeing Abby's favouritism on a monthly basis, adolescents now engage in sexual activity less often than they used to. "You know what the teen response is when I say, 'I hate to tell you this, but grandma and grandpa might be having more sex than you guys are?'" he asks. "Consistently." ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF AND GABRIEL

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Polite, honest... bigoted?

Immigrant teens find that tolerance goes both ways in Canada

BY BEN MOHRESEN When Nafiseh Lozano and her parents arrived as refugees from Colombia, she was 14 years old, it was the middle of a Vancouver school year, she spoke no English, and money was tight. "I had a really tough time," she says. Vancouver life was a huge adjustment. Among other things, she was surprised by its multiculturalism, its liberal ways and the open, recreational use of marijuana. "I didn't even know what weed was," she says, laughing. "The perception was, if you come from Colombia you must have got drugs, but I really had no idea." As much as her English was, it fell up her as the only child to see the way her parents—a reversal of roles. "I was the one going to the banks, doing all the banking stuff, dealing with the manager and the landlord—14." Says Lozano, now 20 and a social and service 32-year-old youth worker with the Vancouver Service Society of B.C. "It's kind of forced eye to grow up."

Charmaine Sookoo and her family arrived in Vancouver from Bangladesh four years ago when she was 15. Although she was educated in English and attended as a Catholic, 19 in Canada was a big adjustment for her. Now a 19-year-old college student, she says, "It's been a constant finding to know everything behind and outside here. No one prepares you for it." Ironically, the cynicism of Canadian teens were best explained to her by fellow Canadians. She enrolled as Larnia's My Car program, where immigrant youth share their hard-earned experiences. "The culture is different here. It changed me. It changed my parents. It changed our thinking," she says. "For example, we are very close like an adult's relationship."

These experiences are typical of immigrant teens as they discover their new life and culture. Project Teen Canada set out to find, among other things, how the evolution of teens in Canada's cultural mosaic is affecting the behaviour and values of teens. It found that the shift has indeed been huge—in 1997, some 89 per cent of four teens were born in Canada, compared to just 26 per cent in 2009—said



SOOKOO says her opposition to gay marriage has changed "completely" since moving here.

offered some fascinating clues as to how immigrants will shape our future.

In broad strokes, the survey shows immigrant teens to be more polite, honest and hard working than Canadian-born teens. But they are more conservative and religious, too, which raises an interesting paradox. While they may see themselves as targets of discrimination, many foreign teens, especially those with parents in India, Pakistan, the Middle East and Asia, are less tolerant than long-established Canadian teens when it comes to issues such as gay marriage, abortion, or raising children out of wedlock.

The survey found that foreign-born teens were more likely to say they would stran-

ge sociologist who heads up Project Teen, expects such divergent opinions to play out over time. "They're in loving in their parents' footsteps to some extent. These expressions of religion—Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam—there is a question they're coming across as much less tolerant. My sense there's better or worse—in that will take over time," he says. "They'll push up the demand Canadian norms." The numbers appear to back him up. While 42 per cent of foreign-born immigrants oppose gay marriage, for instance, that falls to just 28 per cent for the Canadian-born children of immigrants. That rate grows to also more likely to support raising kids outside marriage and the

availability of abortion. Sookoo says she isn't surprised that some immigrants feel discrimination and yet disapprove of them. "Maybe that's a defence mechanism," she says, "because you're not approving of me." Meanwhile, her own opposition to gay marriage has changed

'Maybe it's a defence mechanism,' says one teen, 'because you're not approving of me'

completely," she says. Sookoo also isn't surprised by the dramatic turn of Bibby's research (but teens across the spectrum are Canada as a place to raise their best options for a good home, a marriage that lasts, and a better life for their parents. "A lot of people have different opinions to different people," she says. "But sometimes having somebody with you, having a family, having a roof over your head, is what we all basically want. I don't think it's anything to do with culture, race or religion. It's just a human thing."

Reginald Bibby, the University of Leth-

The percentage of teens who identify as Christian is shrinking

	1994	1997	2000	2008
Roman Catholic	50%	41%	39%	32%
Protestant	35%	28%	22%	15%
Other faith	3%	20%	14%	16%
No faith at all	12%	25%	25%	32%

Includes Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Aboriginal, others. Project Teen Canada.

bulldozers. Hinduism and Islam—has grown livelier since Project Teen began its surveys in 1994, while the percentage of teens who identify as Roman Catholic has declined by one third, and the percentage who identify as Protestant is down by almost two-thirds.

A side effect of this trend is a hollowing out of the religious middle ground in Canada. Reginald Bibby, the University of Lethbridge sociologist who heads up Project Teen, says the gay issue of those who believe in God, but don't regularly practice an established religion, is rightly capturing its role, leaving behind two distinct camps: teens who are very religious and strongly practice their faith, and those who don't believe in God at all. "By now I have been saying that, for all the problems of organized religion in Canada, God has continued to do well in the polls," Bibby writes in *The Emerging Millennial*, a new book based on Project Teen's latest findings. "That's no longer the case."

Teens lose faith in droves

Islam and atheism are on the rise while Christianity fades

BY KATE CUNNINGHAM Every day, Mohsen Hadji grows up before sunrise for morning prayer. The 19-year-old cis boy boards a bus for the 50-minute ride from his home in Richmond, B.C., to the campus of Simon Fraser University where he's studying to become a physician's assistant. He's involved in the Muslim Students' Association, and with Rikhi in Tisha, a Muslim youth group he started that often raises and organizing events. He's a busy guy, yet he also finds time for his religion, including prayer five times a day. "It helps me stay grounded," he says, "and to maintain balance in my life."

Such devotion is rare among teens these days—or at least, among those from Protestant and Catholic households. Just as the younger generation is abandoning the Christian faith, though, non-Western religions, such as Islam and Buddhism, are growing in Canada at a surprising speed. According to new data from Project Teen Canada, more teens now identify as Muslim than Anglican, United Church of Canada and Baptist combined. As is going, the percentage who adhere to so-called "other faiths"—including Hindu-

ism, Buddhism and others—has grown in half while the number who call themselves atheist has grown 16 per cent, up from just 12 per cent in the mid-1990s. Just as the boomers shifted toward agnosticism, teens are now going a step further and rejecting religion entirely. "Belief is learned, partly what's like the multiplication table," Bibby writes. "So it can be lost."

It's a huge shift, and Bibby says it may be a warning sign. While it's true that today's teens seem to be more responsible and more than previous generations, the surveys did find that teens who belong to an organized religion—including Christianity, Islam and others—tended to put a higher value on trust, honesty and concern for others. Religion has long been a "source of stability," he says, not to mention a moral compass of sorts. For instance, 95 per cent of young people who "definitely" believe in God or a higher power also think doing so is "crucial" to be good in each other, while just three per cent of teens agree. As the percentage of religious teens falls, Bibby worries just how that will affect our ethics and behaviour. "We may find that Canadian society doesn't need belief in God to hold itself together. But right now, we appear to be in a secure," he says. "The question is, do we have any functional alternatives in place?"

Project Teen: Canada's most comprehensive teen survey

Five years into the teenage millennial have driven the issue of how teens shape our future. Teen Canada: a series of surveys examining the values, attitudes and beliefs of young people across the country. The survey is led by Reginald Bibby, a sociology professor at the University of Lethbridge, and has shared the most influential findings. The survey is led by Reginald Bibby, a sociology professor at the University of Lethbridge, and has shared the most influential findings. The survey is led by Reginald Bibby, a sociology professor at the University of Lethbridge, and has shared the most influential findings.

The survey has surveyed Canadian teens every eight years since 1994. In 2008, the survey included 1,000 youth between the ages of 15 and 19, drawn from 300 randomly selected schools across the country. There was also an assessment of 100 adult graduates whose responses were used to assess the survey's reliability. The survey also included a number of additional questions to reflect their share of the population. The scale of the sample—roughly 100,000 teens—allows for a high level of statistical precision. The survey also includes a number of additional questions to reflect their share of the population. The scale of the sample—roughly 100,000 teens—allows for a high level of statistical precision. The survey also includes a number of additional questions to reflect their share of the population.

Full results of the latest survey as well as an adult commentary are available in *The Emerging Millennial: New Canadian Survey of Teens*, published by Reginald Bibby, with co-author David Johnston. The book is available at www.projectteen.ca and www.millennial.ca. The book is available at www.projectteen.ca and www.millennial.ca. The book is available at www.projectteen.ca and www.millennial.ca.

DISTURBED SLEEP

Apnea in kids can cause lost IQ, cardiac stress, bad behaviour

BY CATHY ORLIK When James Fitzpatrick was a year old, he breathed so loudly that his mother, Sheila, says, "His kind of sounded like Darth Vader." His nose was always running and plugged. During the previous four months, James had hardly gained any weight. Worst of all, when he slept, he would stop breathing. "It would happen every couple of minutes," recalls Fitzpatrick from Montreal. "It was horrifying to watch him lying there. So I'd move him and I'd come down the days and we'd have a checkup."

After dozens of restless nights and medical appointments, James was finally diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). It's the same disease that most people think only affects overweight, middle-aged men. But three per cent of children have OSA—one out of every four or five kids who snore, a common symptom. And the prevalence is rising, along with the rise in childhood obesity.

Usually OSA occurs when the airway is blocked during sleep, either because it's too narrow, or the tonsils and adenoids are enlarged, or the muscles that keep the airway open go floppy. "Pretty soon, the oxygen [intake] starts to go down and the child wakes up to wake himself from asphyxiating," explains Dr. Robert Tiroshian, a pioneering pediatric sleep specialist at the Montreal Children's Hospital. "So it's good the child wakes up, but it's bad because it disturbs sleep as if he weren't sleeping at all."

More and more, we're learning about the potentially devastating and far-reaching impact of apnea on children. The insufficient supply of oxygen to the brain may lead to a diminished IQ. The sudden surge in heart rate when a child wakes several times during the night can cause cardiac stress. Bad sleep due to apnea leaves some children grumpy, aggressive and distressed—all characteristics of the behaviour associated with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In fact, up to 40 per cent of kids improperly diagnosed with ADHD actually have apnea.

"Despite these profound effects, the sleep disorders of children are largely under-recognized and under-treated," says an expert on pediatric sleep medicine in the British Columbia Medical Journal (BCMJ) last November. Across Canada, only five provinces have a sleep lab for children, and as few more

than 20 pediatricians practice this specialty. This is troubling for Dr. David Gossel, chairman of pediatrics at the University of Chicago Medical Center. "Clearly, Canadian children are underserved, by the very few over-sleeping and highly educated doctors who are providing the best care that they can but do not have as much access to this specialty as they should," he says.

Grossing James diagnosed was a harrowing

story, where Tiroshian is the director. James's oxygen levels were measured while he slept via a pulse oximeter, a bandage-like device wrapped around his toe. The result: James had the worst case of OSA the staff had seen in years.

Within 24 hours, James had an adenoidectomy, a surgery to remove the tonsils and adenoids, which is the most common treatment for pediatric OSA. The outcome was



JAMES, with mother her Sheila, didn't gain weight for four months due to undiagnosed apnea

experience for Fitzpatrick and her husband, Philip. When their son was eight months old, the pediatrician told them that James would eventually grow out of enlarged tonsils and adenoids. In fact, most kids have lymphoid tissue that's too big for their bodies and never suffer apnea; by adolescence, the size normalizes. But a few months later, when James didn't improve, his mother took him to the UK. That led to James seeing an ear, nose and throat specialist, who ordered an apnea test to be done in three months, at the earliest.

"Then I just kind of lost it," remembers Fitzpatrick. "I started crying. My husband said, 'I don't know what this is, we can do it.' Fortunately, James happened to have an appointment with his allergist sooner. An X-ray showed an air-cold pass between his nose and throat. Almost immediately, his mother received an at-home video recording from the Montreal Pediatric Sleep Lab on

asphyxiating. "It was just complete night and day," says his mother. Now, when he sleeps, James is quiet and peaceful. When awake, he's happy. And post-surgery, "he ate like an animal," she adds with relief.

The only concern now, says Fitzpatrick, is whether those poor sleeps have left a mark on James. Just 14 months old, he isn't speaking as much at that age as his older brother, Connor, who, incidentally, was diagnosed and treated for OSA shortly after James. Fitzpatrick wonders if it's because of apnea, but she can't be certain.

Nevertheless, it's joyful, though Dr. James Tiroshian, a pediatric neurologist at the B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver, has treated children with disabilities and OSA, and says that prolonged and untreated sleep apnea can cause the neurons in the brain to be stressed and eventually die. This translates into a loss of IQ. On average, children with



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Roasted Almond Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 4 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch thick cubes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup fresh thyme leaves, plus 1/2 cup for garnish
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt (optional)
- 1 cup sliced California Almonds

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450°F. In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients except the sliced almonds and toss. Arrange potato cubes into a single layer on a heavy-weight rimmed baking sheet or in a 1x13-inch baking dish. Place on the top rack of the oven and roast until tender and slightly browned, about 45 minutes.

On another baking sheet, spread out the sliced almonds. Place in the oven and toast until slightly browned, about 10-12 minutes.

Remove the roasted baking sheet with the sweet potatoes. Mix together in a serving bowl and garnish with thyme sprigs. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 8 to 10 servings. Leave none at.

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OSA are a star in right child drop in IQ, though some will lose more or none, says Goral. If a child is born with a high IQ, an increase may not matter. But in kids with an average IQ of 100 points, such a decline "makes the difference between going to college or not," he explains.

The good news is that children were assessed early, lost IQ can be restored. In a ground-breaking study 11 years ago, Goral showed that among the worst-performing first-graders at schools in New Orleans, the prevalence of OSA was double that of the general public. Many were treated, and a year later, he says, "to end behold, the group had actually surpassed their grade."

Unfortunately, many kids with learning or behavioral problems due to apnea are misdiagnosed with ADHD, partly because the symptoms are similar. Some children "can't concentrate, they're hyperactive, they have emotional outbursts. It goes on," says Jan. In their well-intentioned attempt to help, some physicians diagnose ADHD with out going through rigorous diagnostic criteria, says Goral. Separate studies by Jan and others show that between 35 and 40 per cent of children are taking medication for ADHD when upon a treatment is required. But, experts emphasize, among kids properly diagnosed with ADHD, the prevalence of OSA is the same as for the general population.

Dr. Evelyn Cassatunga, a pediatric sleep expert and assistant director of the Mind at Sleep lab with Broadview, cautions physicians from promising educational recovery as a cure. "It's because our research has shown a dozen things result in better behavior. It's not just sleep. For me, it's a hyper behavior. But I'm not sure if that [was] part of the apnea, or if that's just him," she says.

Constitution is also recognizing the impact of OSA on children's hearts. The sudden and frequent waking up can cause cardiac stress. Kids with OSA often have high blood pressure, too. In adults with apnea, their hypertension puts them at increased risk for a heart

attack. It's not clear what it means for kids, says Cassatunga, but "it's not a good thing." Her recent study, fortunately, has found that once children are treated they no longer have higher heart rates.

While the understanding of OSA is growing, so is the disease's prevalence. As more children are becoming obese, doctors are diagnosing them with a variety of types that look more like what adults suffer because it's caused by the position of fat in the upper airway, not just enlarged lymphatic tissue. Goral refers to it as "Type 2" apnea. "Type 1" is the severity led with fat around the neck, says Cassatunga, when bloodless syndrome is usually not associated by OSA, are now coming into his lab for treatment.



BOTH Goral and Janes had their heads out to work against

Taken together, the rising prevalence of OSA and adolescent health risks make for an alarming situation for kids. What's more, adds Jan, "every time a child doesn't sleep, the parents don't sleep." The authors suggest developing pediatric sleep services at the local, provincial and national level, including a professional network for doctors, and public awareness campaigns. Already there are signs of change. More hospitals are recognizing the importance of having sleep labs for children. Assessment of success has legitimized the importance of treating OSA. Another reason for change: it's hard to ignore a disease that is being diagnosed more often.

For Euphrates, who still keeps an insomnia other behavior as she can hear her son's breathing, a good night's sleep has never been more welcome. ■

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THE PM FOR ALL SEASONS

Love him or hate him, Pierre Elliott Trudeau symbolized the nation

BY BRIAN KETHUNE • In the judgment of historians, Pierre Trudeau didn't tend to rank among the big guys—Macdonald, Laurier and King—in the making of Canada. It would seem, though, that Canadians would beg to differ, judging by the reaction to his death 15 years after he left office in 1984. Some 50,000 people lined up in front of his coffin as he lay in state, or came to see and touch his funeral casket. It's not likely that the death of any other former PM will provoke a fraction of that interest, let alone the feeling of loss that struck so many for millions of Canadians. Trudeau opened what they saw as a new era, and even his many enemies tended to measure their hopes and dreams against his. As a poet or René Lévesque, winner of the 2005 Governor

General's Literary Award for *The Origin of Species* and author of *Pierre Elliott Trudeau for the Perpetual Extraordinary Canadian* series, notes, "A lot of people out there are heartily tired of Trudeau, even if they see him in a totally different light."

Rice himself is far from aligned with the idea. Born in 1919 to Irish immigrant parents, the writer was too young to experience the sudden explosion of Trudeau's charisma in 1968, when the previously little-known Marxist intellectual won the Liberal party leadership and then the first majority of the victory in 1974. And as a young novelist and political thinker, Rice never voted Liberal. But Trudeau was always there, an iconic and respect-worthy backdrop to everything in Canada. "We could think," Rice says ironically in an interview, "if I could him, I could be admiring to being Canadian." Perhaps it's just the push of the political world's great aspect of the Trudeau years, but the



THE GOOD prime minister. "It was like him, I could see something to be Canadian" and interest to me was the catalyst." That concentration on the cultural factor, balanced with Rice's own analysis to the man himself and his policies, makes for a particularly apt mix of author and subject. And, not incidentally, one of the best volumes in Penguin's series so far. It's apparent from the start that *Pierre Elliott Trudeau* will not be a biography on page four. Rice is already discussing "the mostly unimpressive as a unreliable summation book" Trudeau brought to print in his later years.

Rice doesn't mention by name (against the Current (1996), a selection from the former prime minister's writings, but he takes deal with the Trudeau concept, not held of Trudeau by supporters and enemies alike. "He was always right in the middle of the stream." The novel also says that when Trudeau deeply identified with it, reactionary Catholic racism about him in Quebec during the Second World War. In 1945, after a year in the very different milieu of Britain, Trudeau came home to his belief that he had essentially saved the war, not in the sense of avoiding it, but of embracing it, "the greatest catastrophe of all time." Trudeau was also a statesman, not to say boss, as evidenced in his Keynesianism, about in the middle of his cabinet in the War Measures Act in 1970, and downing the Trudeauism in his own marriage.

But Trudeau had, far more than most, the capacity to listen, and the courage and politeness to make things happen. The Catholicism was necessary never last but only goes into it, but he changed enough to bring the Quebec—the essential underpinning of modern Canada—into being. "What he really signifies for me," says Rice, "is that he completely reflects our complexity: he was a big man from a big country. He left some thing about us all. And could Oh yes

PRIVATE FAILURE

BY NISIO RICE

Pierre Elliott Trudeau was Canada's liberal dog, serving people who he supported. Canada's author and editor in 1990, and introduced there in the Constitution in 1982. He was the winner of national unity for many of us and, for millions of others, the man who brought us

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closer to the truth than anyone else. But what is all this reminder but what the jury tale our rage and in public disavowal

Trudeau's secret marriage to Margaret Sauter on March 4, 1971, broke many hearts and started a chapter in Trudeau's life that for some time to come would provide exactly the sort of copy to the international press that Trudeau had always abhorred, even as a part of him seemed to court it. The few days after the marriage announcement were an agony for the country. Many people who couldn't name a single Trudeau policy initiative in the 1970s can still remember what Maggie wore when she met the Queen, or which head of state's wife she compared against for, or what adult child she had with her on the way to Fidel Castro. By the time of her infamous rendition with the Rolling Stones a mere six years after her marriage, she had left the country with a sense of having forever shed its image as a half mix of state (Trudeau's cousin and, as it were, Catholicism). She had also left there with two sons, two years Christmas Day, who would enter him into his later years the perfect family man even as he vented to his days of missing back to back.

The daughter of a former Liberal cabinet minister, Margaret had met Trudeau briefly in Ottawa during Christmas 1967. They had discussed Pierre's dream, the road ahead, though Trudeau had not made much of an impression on her, her attention being taken up with a handsome young Frenchman named Yves. It was not until two years later, when, as prime minister, he showed up in Vancouver and took her to a date, that she was smitten. What started out as an affair, of sorts, and then, however, slowly took on the rhythm of an actual relationship.

In Margaret's own words, Trudeau never actually proposed, merely put the idea of marriage before her as a matter of negotiation. He set some rules: she had to prove she could remain faithful, and she had to prove up. After she had gone several months without a kiss or a sexual liaison, the date was set, and on March 4, 1971, the country learned, with some jubilation, that their perceived leader's private matter had not led to his loss.

Margaret's last confession that Pierre was reluctant to marry her because he thought she would lose him as the ring of steel. For all the image of Trudeau as someone afraid to commit, in the few days of his marriage he had always been the woman who had ended the relationship. The most striking aspect of the young Margaret Sauter in that corner was how woefully unqualified—she was her brother's—she was for the role. She was



a name to whom Trudeau met her in 1967, and only 22 at his 51 when he married her. And apart from an undergraduate degree from Simon Fraser University, where she had studied political science, sociology, and anthropology, she had few of the accomplishments and none of the refinements that Trudeau had previously favoured.

And what was it in Margaret that was to capture the world's attention? It was what he because she seemed so unlikely, because we found and hoped for more public, because we did not know—and so on after which she had the heart of a lioness—what she could do. We watched her become the camera's loved one. The media didn't like her, as it had made Trudeau, just as with him, there were some images of Margaret that would be etched in the Canadian psyche. Margaret and Pierre swinging back through an open port window. Margaret with the Queen, Margaret with Caesar, Margaret with Justin, she looked, she was for the role. She was



Just as the media had made her, however, so it unmade her. During all night with the Rolling Stones in Toronto. Dancing at Studio 54 while her husband was down to defeat of the polls. A famous photo of Margaret caught in the act of smoking a cigarette, but even worse to come, as she launched a 10-minute script that included a bodice-ripper whose script was written by a screenwriter. By then Margaret had begun to accept a grotesque version of Trudeau: where he had put words, she had put words, grotesquely having herself to a world date was all too happy to take whatever she offered.

The real story of Maggie and Pierre, however, was particularly glamorous and remarkable. Much of it is known through Margaret's own books, *By Your Name* and *Consequences*.



TRUDEAU put forward the idea of marriage as if presenting a government white paper

which was considered in parliament when they were out but were actually a model of discretion with regard to Trudeau himself. No one other than his own family or of some minor or petty tyrant who had led behind the scenes, no later discrimination or flouting of laws. On the contrary, her conscious was: Trudeau tried to tell his public what he wanted to tell it, as they had when he had put Trudeau on the campaign trail in the election of 1974. Spending to an audience in Vancouver that she had called "Trudeau's beautiful girl" who "taught me everything I know about living."

There was very little in the books to contradict this image. "Pierre is one of the greatest of men, a loving father and a very loyal friend," the words of him, taking most of the blame for the failure of the marriage on herself. Trudeau's own culpability came out mainly as a sort of benign indifference in his holding court publicly in Toronto as a di-

ary party without realizing that Margaret didn't speak at this balance to return the chilly refusal of the domestic staff at 24 Sussex to relinquish any control of the household to her. In the end her life came apart so spectacularly and so suddenly that the public, too, would tend to spare Trudeau any of the blame for the marriage's failure.

Here was a man, however, who had chosen for his wife someone 18 years his junior and who shared some of his accomplishments or learning or experience. It was not as if he lacked anyone. Why choose Margaret over someone like his long-time "roommate" Madeline Gilbert, who was still living in Ottawa when he was secretly dating Margaret and who was someone much more suited to him at age and social platform than Margaret?

THEIR RELATIONSHIP SEEMED THE LOGICAL COMPLETION OF THE TRUDEAU MYTH

Just as the marriage was seen as another example of Trudeau's backing of convention, the truth was that much different. In *Consequences*, in a tone slightly less grand than that of his first book, Margaret described the three categories women fell into for Trudeau: There were his female colleagues, and there he saw only as working companions and even to women, though many were also close friends. "When there were possible dates and here, the Edward VIII, he preferred actresses and actresses, glamorous women perfect for him as men and as a single dinner. There were his wife, and she had to be dependent, at home, and available."

Margaret might have added "pregnant," which she was also allowed to do her marriage to Trudeau. Trudeau had always wanted children, and he had always been generous of friends who had married at the proper age and had grown old before he was still young in his own life as an adolescent. His earlier relationships had failed so much because of his aversion to the structure of domestic life but mostly because he had been attracted to women of accomplishment as well as to such less traditional views of women's roles than he had. For all the emphasis throughout his life on human rights, Trudeau never allowed himself to be much of a feminist.

No one was ever to suggest he married Margaret for anything other than love, yet there was something childlike practical in the arrangement as he put the idea of marriage forward as if he were presenting a government white paper, or at least an act of 1974 as though the independence and accomplishment that constituted her as a lover he could not have accepted in a wife. Apparently there was no thought of challenges in every other

sphere of his life did not want to feel challenged in marriage. In the end, Margaret proved one of his lesser challenges, and one of the few in which he would fail.

That was part of the public's fascination with the saga of Maggie and Pierre. Part of the fascination in Canada, of course, was the fascination itself that the world's eyes should be open to, that suddenly this headliner name made the pages of *People* magazine and *Vanity Fair* and the British tabloids. Beyond that, their relationship seemed the logical completion of the Trudeau myth, embodying exactly what Trudeau had seemed to embody politically: youth, family, which was a perpetual struggle with him, but also the family life, the successful quest, the great love, the fact that he was not the ideal. Like Trudeau's private behind the scenes, which John Diefenbaker, spouse of the Old Guard, had entered and found out, Maggie was a sign of the passing of the old order, the dusty colonial one of the family Compact and the Union Jack.

It was exciting how close the latest story of Princess Di came to mirror that of Margaret, married from relative obscurity, married at 30, the dating of the camera also, however, could not quite seem to get things right. Another fairy tale marriage that was badly wrong—and for similar reasons. In the Canadian way, however, Maggie and Pierre ended rather less tragically and less bitterly.

Margaret's comments about Trudeau's nervous and stammering to hold her for his post-Margaret time that they did for his pre-Margaret one. The old pattern of long-distance relationships weathered, but it was much more obvious now. In some ways Trudeau truly became the playboy he had only feigned to be when he was younger, though the image never changed from that of being a conservative father to his boys. As for his playboyism, there would be no women who would want to be, decided to find comfort in playing by the back door as they came to through the door, but few who would abandon him. It was women's step in his life for years, well after relationships had ended, though might be bitterness, but never ill will.

In his last years, after the death of their youngest son, it was Margaret he most took notice from. *Just as it was Margaret whose shadow he had been utterly with at the death of Pierre Laporte in 1970, and it was Margaret who sat in his bed on the night he died in 2000.*

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IT WAS A GAS

**'Corner Gas' is ending
after six seasons.**

**JAIME J. WEINMAN
explains why it was
such a huge success.**

tv

"I had an intention to overly rural themes," says Brent Butt, creator and star of *Corner Gas*. "One of the writers pitched a story about this cow who was following one of the characters around, and I said, 'That seems like *Petticoat Junction* to me. That's not what we're doing here.'" But that didn't set out to do a rural comedy, but he missed the farm. *Corner Gas*, now in its sixth and last season, is perhaps the most successful Canadian sitcom to run in more than 20 different countries, gets a million viewers a week in Canada, and spawned many imits too including the successful *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. CTV is giving the series finale, which was April 15, the sort of hype usually reserved for American finales, including a "pump out a poster" contest for the best handmade expression of misery over losing the show. It's become success, in part, by bringing back the old-fashioned comedy about lovable people who don't conform to city life. Executive producer Virginia Thompson, who oversees the show's production on location in Saskatchewan, says the genre is as popular as that. "Small town success is nostalgic. I think that they remind us of community, which we all need." So far *Corner Gas* is a milder show about small-town life, like *Petticoat Junction*, or it's the opposite, as Butt insists: "Maybe it's both."

Rural sitcoms are traditionally about a world where everything is a little slower and calmer. *Corner Gas*, loosely based on Butt's stand-up routine about growing up in rural Saskatchewan, certainly fits that formula, starting with a theme song that tells us "you'd think there's not a lot going on" in Dog River, Sask. It's a place where people are few, buildings are fewer, and nobody minds their own business. Several character types are familiar from rural shows like *Monty and the Sons of Anarchy*: there's Butt as gas station proprietor Brent Leroy, who, in the tradition of Butt's old *Bob Newton*, spends his time staring at the walls of his local diner. There's also another staple of the rural sitcom, the urban fish out of water character, in the form of Leroy's (Gail Miller) sister, a Toronto mom who inherits Dog River's only coffee shop.

But there's a difference between *Corner Gas* and traditional rural shows, one that was apparent when Butt and consulting producer Mark Fendley delivered the first scripts to CTV. Fendley says the executives were surprised because "they thought it was going to be a little more rural." Most earlier shows portrayed small towns as an oasis from hard, fast modern life (as in *Green Acres*, a hell-hole where people are shocked for refusing to adjust to the modern world), on *Corner Gas*, the town looks quiet, but the characters spend all their time on crazy schemes, business deals and fighting. Leroy, Fendley says, is really "a fish in water" because

the discovery that his Toronto ways fit right in is a small town. The characters may have the

nostalgical rural preoccupation with keeping everything the same—in the pilot, they got upset when Brent starts carrying VHS tapes at the gas as they—best case, episode—wrote around them being obsessed with the same things as city dwellers: television viewing, technology gadgets, and so on. "This is definitely a nostalgic show," Butt explains, "in that we're a lot more the same than we are different."

But even as *Corner Gas* tries to get away from the clichés of the rural sitcom, it leans first from *Seinfeld* and, more importantly, when it started, it leans on *Seinfeld*. It had a place in the city, it wouldn't have stood out the way it did when it premiered in 2004. Rural shows had been beaten for a long time. Several decades earlier because they didn't do very much enough, there were a few one-hour dramas about small towns (*Northwest Exposure*, for example), but apart from *Nebraska*, most had serious streak to cities and suburbs. Which means that when *Corner Gas* came along, with its jokes about cars and small-town buy/body cops, it was able to satisfy a pent-up demand for something like *The Andy Griffith Show*.

And *Corner Gas* gave audiences something else they were looking for but couldn't get: a show that had no desire to be edgy or socially relevant. Most contemporary Canadian sitcoms are concerned to be both critical and laugh-out-loud, as if the writers were rebelling against Canada's reputation for doing flat, funny-free comedy. "There wasn't anything being done that was just a show about regular people who

BY GIVING control to Brent Butt (left), CTV was following the patterns of shows like *Seinfeld*, where a comic guides his own star vehicle.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM DOLAN



on TV, who aren't cynical) added: "It's like [Farel], who previously worked on tough-minded shows like *The Newsweek* and *Made in*

Canada. *Coroner* was the Canadian show for the viewers most Canadian producers had abandoned, and Farel was one of those viewers. "I would like to sit down and not watch people be uncomfortable. I wanted a show that would let you just sit down, and laugh, and not change the world." *Coroner* Gail's character could be seen to reach a char-

acter's first show (Eric [Farel's] called his an "idiot") in the episode

"*THESE HARDY*" anything being done that was just a show about regular people," recalls one producer. "I bet for the most part, Doug [Rosen] was going down, through Canada's celebrities and politicians like Stephen Harper have made cartoons, but he has tried to emphasize the universality of the idea, even adding a disclaimer to remove a bunch of miniature Canadian flags from a shot. "How desperate does that look? It's like, 'Look how Canadian we are!'"

Even more important than the lack of production. Canadian shows have tended to be driven by non-writing producers, by giving control of the show to them, CTV followed the pattern of shows like *Scrubs*, where a stand-up comic guides his own star vehicle. "This is one of the first Canadian shows I can

U.S. as England, like the *Officer Booth* version of *Scrubs*. For one thing, it doesn't have the kind of character development or emotional involvement you get in some of those other shows, and doesn't go as far as *Coroner* Gail has no story arcs and almost never changes the characters' lives, which is the premise for one episode made it look like *Scrubs* would sell his go stories and Lacey would move back to Toronto, the same turned out to be just a part of a show that actually try to shake things up. "People always ask us, 'What are you going to do next?' That's the question. 'What are we going to do next?'"

But he's going to do the same thing. "It's not like that. Laughing the character and forget the next he's helped the show in terms, and he's confident it's a sign of strength that the show has been so successful. When I watched the first episode, it was a different experience. We hadn't given much. The first experience to the fact that we found our legs early."

But you could argue that's really just the show finds its legs and then builds from there, developing the character and relationships beyond what we'll expect. *Coroner* Gail has spent too many episodes living up to our expectations, not changing them.

Of course, just because a show is comfortable and safe doesn't preclude it becoming a classic. Many of the '60s rural westerns that were frowned on as being too bland have become pop culture icons. The same thing might happen with *Coroner* Gail, as people look back

on it. But certainly this show will look a little different as we start to understand it better. "People in the *Officer Booth* of *Coroner* Gail as a genre show-paced show," he says, "but it's not anything but slow and gentle. It was fast moving, with lots of cuts, and people being down to earth." He thinks the show has been a real, friendly show to build many on the series than a viewing of the actual episodes. "It's a real series type. When people see a field and blue pants, they go 'Oh, quality country folk.' They often don't know that these quiet country folks are plotting their murder." ■

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The urban 'fish out of water' finds her Toronto ways fit right in in *Dog River*

and hasn't let up since then. But it always made sense we were at ease. Whereas other Canadian actors were uncomfortable, at a first meeting to be. "They all talk about being shy, but they weren't," but says. "It always comes off in kind of a sad and pathetic when people tell you how shy they are. It's like you're still trying to show you how cool you are."

But there has to be some sort of success than taking place in a rural community while adopting a more village approach. *Coroner* Gail also became a Canadian but by not trying to be Canadian. Many of those emphasize the fact that they don't take place in the U.S., as if we're not there we won't have a chance to meet if the viewers don't know they're Canadian. "When I was growing up, I wanted to be an actor. Canadian TV," but recalls, "but whenever I did, the Canadian was a constant and over my head."

Coroner Gail occasionally has Canada-specific references, like a joke about Tommy Douglas, the man who brought free health care in Saskatchewan (he was really after "free health care" in the U.S.)

think of where the Canadian has a day in the final product," Farel says. In a way, *Coroner* Gail isn't so much the great Canadian sitcom as the U.S. sitcom. The U.S. wasn't giving an American could have produced a rural comedy with U.S.-style pop culture references, but they didn't. But filled the gap.

So it's no wonder that *Coroner* Gail is going to be a real success for its first episode. No Canadian sitcoms are rare. On the other hand, it's one thing to be an actor in Canada, but it's not like there where *Coroner* Gail is always when stacked up against the other successful new Canadian comedies from the



ACCORDING TO TV THE WHITE HOUSE GARDEN

It's the first day of spring. Michelle Obama celebrated by planting a vegetable garden at the White House. The said she did it to help her family survive the coming economic apocalypse. It was the first time it has been used at the White House since the Clinton administration. —Jimmy Kimmel
"While she was out digging, she found three of Dick Cheney's hunting buddies." —David Letterman

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THE AVERAGE CANADIAN eats 5.5 kg per capita of "various" cheeses, or anything that isn't cheddar or processed cheese

The cheese plate gets competitive

Two cheddars, two Swiss and a flavoured havarti—where's the sexy backstory in that?

BY LIAMNE GEORGE • Part of the burgeoning appeal of local artisanal cheeses—particularly in rough-hewn dairies, where most time during happens at home—is that, like wines, they offer hosts the opportunity to regale guests with tales of bovine settings, intricate local products, whole-animal uprisings, and age-old production methods. "Traditionally, in smaller communities, cheese has actually grown because it's an affordable luxury," says Kathy Guad, dean of the Cheese Education Guild in Toronto, Canada's first school for cheese "summer camps." Despite the downsides, the cheese-as-status food trend shows no signs of cooling. In some circles, ascribing the right combination of cheeses—scamors, in this case, polenta—means there's a blower of one's life's competitive spin.

"When we do these boards here, we usually print out descriptions of all the cheeses for the consumers," says Christine Silverman of Toronto's Lethbridge Cheese Market. "They want to be able to tell their friends. They said it was so nice to find friends in Prince Edward County, and it's good for two people to want to know all of that. With us, much to learn, it's not surprising some regular visitors have taken to creating journals of favourites." Customers even keep cheese diaries, "like notebooks, so they know when they had it and like notes about whether they liked it or not."

Sometimes a great backstory alone can help drive a bestselling cheese. Gorth Peirce, author of *The Definitive Guide to Canadian Artisanal and Fine Cheese*, is the owner of Episcopate Reproduction, which sources and sells Canadian cheeses at farmers' markets around Toronto. One of his recent favourites is called "indication" by Tilda Shalof of

Monforte Dairy in Milliken, Ont. "I've actually named it 'sex on the finger,'" she says. "It's a soft, Gouda-style cheese with a thick rind coated with paprika. One day when I packed some up, Rachel and I were, 'Do you know why it's called indication?' It became. More got a little indication one night when they sampled too much grapes." When it's nice and ripe and sexy in the center, I would offer samples to customers at the farmers' market and their eyes would just roll. They'd look at their partners and say, 'Hazel room! Now!'"

Canadians' appetite for sophisticated artisanal cheeses has been on a steady upward trajectory since the '60s, reaching record highs in 2007. In 2009, Canadians ate 2.3 kg per capita of "various" cheeses (those other than cheddar or processed cheese). Now, the average Canadian eats 5.5 kg per capita. Given cheese boutiques appear to be popping up in every neighbourhood, and in fine restaurants, a cheese course means peppered with words like "earthly," "risky," "hand-attended" and "cave-aged" is becoming standard. Demand for local products is growing periodically fast. "I tell all about C cheese because people really like the idea that they know where the farm is and who runs the farm," says Allison Spurr, co-owner of the popular Vancouver cheese boutique Les Amis du Fromage. Silver Shalof learned making

cheese in 2004; her business has doubled in sales every year, which is why she recently shut down operations to build her own Monforte dairy, set to open in 2013.

For those who remain baffled by talk of "triple cream," "wash rind," and "organic curd," there are a few simple rules to keep in mind. First, avoid being too soft. "I've cheddar, two Swiss, and a flavored cream cheese, so let's say a flavored havarti, would be a bad cheese plate," says Guad. On the other hand, most people try to create a sophisticated palate by grouping a series of artisanal cheeses together. "Proximally," says Spurr, "I've had somebody buy something that they thought people would hate on paper because they were trying to show them up and buy something so scary they would be scared to eat it."

When it comes to cheese plate etiquette, the worst thing a host can do, says Peirce, is fail to identify the cheeses. "You don't want people saying, 'Okay, that's the average one, it must be cheddar.' Or, 'That one's blue—but which blue?' Also, avoid eating a cheese up to its label value—which does not encourage people to swallow it without really savoring it. And if you're eating, Peirce says, the last you can do is supply a different taste for each cheese. "That's nothing worse than someone who's just had a piece of blue cheese [using] the same knife to cut the Camembert," he says. "It's a yes put your point but try to enjoy this one kind of situation."

TODAY'S SPECIAL... WHOOSIE PIES

The decision is being made with a revival of traditional, comforting desserts, and one of them, whoosie pies, have been taking New York City by storm. The "pies" are actually hand-rolled sandwiches made of cheddar or pumpkin-flavoured rounds of cake, with French vanilla cream filling in between. The cake, sold in bakeries, is said to be a distant cousin of Quebec's celebrated chocolate treat, *Joie Louis*.

AFTER SIX SUMMERS, 18-described 'city girl' Shalof came to appreciate the 'intimacy' of camp life. 'There's a lot of happiness,' she says.

What the summer camp nurse saw

City-hospital life didn't prepare Tilda Shalof for wilderness seizures and homesick hearts

BY AMIE KINGSTON • The phrase summer camp typically brings to mind: sweltering days, campfire songs, and late nights. For Tilda Shalof, who has spent her past six summers as a camp nurse in Ontario's cottage country, those memories include a shark scare and a racist driver, and a few weird cases of deer. In a way, a flavored havarti would be a bad cheese plate," says Guad. On the other hand, most people try to create a sophisticated palate by grouping a series of artisanal cheeses together. "Proximally," says Spurr, "I've had somebody buy something that they thought people would hate on paper because they were trying to show them up and buy something so scary they would be scared to eat it."

Shalof has described the dramas of nursing before in her acclaimed *A Nurse Story* and *The Making of a Nurse*. With 23 years tending to the critically ill in Toronto General Hospital's intensive care unit, she's not just for the rocky challenges of camp nursing, which range from wilderness seizures to homesick teens.

The self-described "city girl" had never been to camp. "I just and I mean simply don't do it," she had said her last at age 14, she decided to better her nursing skills in her two boys, Henry and Max. "I will go. There's a camp nurse with a history of poor social or superior philosophy [about] were raised. Friends, fellows, comrades." Shalof really enjoyed her home at Shalof's antiquated medical equipment and general regular-Band-Aids surfaced in the stew, the sepsis system was gone and many kids stuck out of the deck. "It was a dump," she writes.

Their second, with its peak country-dub atmosphere, anti-rules and an arbitrary superior in hospitals in more developing countries, offered stark but not always soothing relief.

It was in "the business of him," writes Shalof, who has changed 11 nurses. On her surprise, the story was the same as in her last nurse camp. "I think in her childhood were belonging to parents who were fearful of them with their children. "Wayne doesn't like to be touched," read one. "Must carry bag with me at all times. He worries about West Nile virus." (Does not respond to reassurance tone.) *Delta only old water.* Another was more alarming. "Dante had an isolated case of hypocalcaemia. Shalof had experienced a complete case. Stress related." Children with no known allergies arrived with Epipens for anaphylactic shock, just in case. Sometimes, the spent more time reassuring parents on the phone than ever assisting with their kids.

Never a pediatric nurse, Shalof found a learning curve. One third of campers came with some sort of condition—born, anti-depressants to downplay for the bettering to "natural" remedies such as John's wort. "In many ways as I had seen on some of my very sick hospitalized patients," she writes. In "Three Tilda," Shalof also noted the role of camp life for advice kids—stress of campfire songs, insect-wild-drunk, even the shock of nature. The records her under-attorneys to help (campers) grappling with challenges such as anxiety, self-cutting, and the death of a parent.

Camp Nurse chapters camp as an import with escape from when life and from parents, a benefit especially that he saw boys didn't experience. "It's nice that they don't," she says. "It's this intimacy in life they don't approach me." She came to appreciate the "intimacy" of camp life. "There's a lot of happiness," she says. It also allowed a safe incubator for her young sexuality, she says, which is not only counselling, no campers, have on. The world knows of teenage girls' struggles here. "It was so much more intimate in my day with first love, second love," she says.

The book also provides a glimpse into an underappreciated profession. "When one of the teachers told me at one camp camp had had a man that was a woman Shalof's account parents into a hospital only to be hospitalized for being poorly prepared to understand. When a mother's appeal through one camp, she uses the protocols established by Dr. Sheri Bassett, Toronto's director of public health during the 1990s 2010 SARS crisis.

Shalof, who plans to return to camp this summer, emerged with new wisdom. A child was a second child who can jump up and down probably doesn't have opponents, she writes. As far from homecare, which she defines as "systemic to be at home rather than ourselves," the cure a camp itself, she writes. "Because a camp you can learn everything you need about finding your way home." That's very clever, an antidote for caregivers that also effective for their fearful parents. ■

FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... WHEN CAMP WAS KING

It's arguable that history, normally chopped into bits by political change, can also be divided by its prevailing sources of energy. In *One Black Month* (2010), John DeMott traces the history of coal and the history of Nova Scotia as near identical. Some 300 million tons have been mined there, and 2,500 men have died working for it. More than the province has in the Great War.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LEE TULLOCH
PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW VOLKMER



We're in the fast lane to polygamy



Ah, well, says Miss L'Houmeau-Dubé, polygamists don't enjoy the same societal acceptance as gays. "I don't see a parade of polygamists on St-Charles Street," observes the guest jurist, rebuttaling the same due-ding quality of argument she used back in her days as the Supreme Court's most unspoken activist on gay issues. A decade ago, she and Justice Michael Rabbé, Australia's

While Jean F. Lévesque Dubé's objections may be sincere, the Government of Canada gets the distinct impression of going through the motions. Its objection to polygamy rests on the gross wedding blunderbuss of "Canadian values." Polygamy is supposedly incompatible with "de Canadiane values."

Call me a hapless Pollyanna, but I'd like to think a functioning GPC government could enact a coherent economic policy while still finding time to oppose polygamy. Still, as Mike Andrews' broader argument, the key is in order of decriminalization of poly and marriage: after all, we let a crap arrow as many women as we want. What kind of double lewts-tornery there is! But in Canada nothing seems in motion. Take those mistle spousal welfare benefits in Ontario. In fairness to your lag time polygamist in Timon or Whatevers, he has to do x on his own time. If the words

So what? We upright squares just need to get with the beat. A couple of years ago, Nicole Langlois of the *London Free Press* went to see

We could use some "Canadian values" right now. As it is, multiculturalism has crapped its eyes on the vocabulary to argue against obvious provocations. If by "Canadian values," you mean a half millennium of genocide and constitutional evolution, forget it; you lost. But, if by "Canadian values," you mean the already coextensive *diversité* and *Théâtre du monde* jargon, make the most of it: it's the moment, and the moment passes. And you might not like what follows. ■

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LAST WEEK'S CRIMINALS ON LIST

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Lawrence Baptiste-Catholique was born on May 12, 1936, to Pierre, a Dene chief and hunter, and his wife, Judith, in Lutsel K'e, a treehouse community of 400 on the east shore of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories. He was the eldest of six children, until he was eight, the family lived year-round in a canvas tent, says his sister Mary Jane, two years his junior. The floor was made up of cutlery boxes piled atop spruce branches, she says.

With the wood store running, "it was as profitable as a house," says until 1964, the Catholicos—generations generation had been so named by missionaries unwilling to use the family's sacred name. Gladie's second surname, Gladie—and trades from Port Arthur to Tahlequah Narrows, fishing, trapping and hunting caribou. After being listed as a cowboy and fisherman at Plummer's Lodge on Grosvenor Lake, however, there built a cabin near the river. Lawrence attended the two sons Lou and Kay Deane Scott, around which the community had "rootedness" in the decade following its construction in 1860, says Ray Griffith, a close friend of the family. When, in 1908, they became chief, they settled in Lusat K'w'annamut.

Lund 8½ (formerly broadleaf)—the name was changed in 1994) had 26 houses, a co-op store, a Catholic church and a residence for the visiting priest. Lawstrace's family didn't have a car—“Lund

It's really important to do anything," Ray explains—but they had a horse and dog team. The immensity of caring for a tuberculous child, which Lawrence managed to avoid. His family, however, spent more than two years at the Clarke's Cornhill Hospital in Edmonstone, while his grandfather Jean-Baptiste took Lawrence under his wing. When Lawrence's family returned from Edmonstone, they married Dora and sons, even though more than half of the bandaged drooped the full carbuncle hunt. "They hunted, skinned and butchered animals while Judith did the tanning and cooking—boiling, concocting, frying the carbuncle, biter meat and whitefish—and sewing mitts and moccasins made of suede, moose caribou, and Mary Jane

By his teens, Lawrence was finding and driving the dogs, tracking animals, laying cotton gins and navigating the boat through the big waves of Great Slave Lake—the summer's deepest lake. But he left school at 12, unable to read or write even for most years. "All moments spared their children to be educated," said Ray. "But the

didn't realize that meant having the kids at school at 9 a.m., five days a week." Midsemester, Lawrence's family would leave for a three-week hunt, "interrupting his education," Ray explains.

As a young man, Lawrence worked as a *riding guide*, and in the process, "Nemo long term employment," adds Ray. Antone and his two affiliates, he was for more employment in trapping wildcats, foxes, martens and beaver. Often, he'd spend the entire winter on the traps, and Ray—sometimes by himself, says Ray—"he had no problem being alone; he would take along a drum and sing to himself, and play the harmonica." It'd also pack a sidearm and books. With practice, he eventually taught himself to read and write, says Ray.

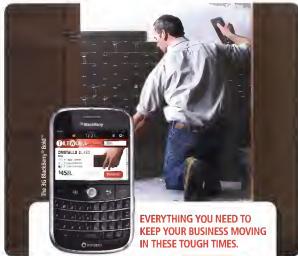


While most of Lamele Ke lived in a village, his government position, Lamele, built a two-story log cabin—he even brewed his own. A friend and advisor, he “was perfect,” says his partner, Agnes Carbone, a Dine language teacher from Lac Brochet, Man. For him, he “drank and drank and drank,” a gambling cycle of sobriety, mania, and, at times—when he was not, at times—when he was not, several relationships—until he died (it once and for all 15 years ago, with the help of the Navajo American Church). (Lamele had a son with his mother, he didn’t raise any of his three children, James, Clifford and Cory, though he kept an eye on them, says Roy.) His recovery was not in his

He became a drug and alcohol counselor, band leader and business owner, relying heavily on the sweat lodge—a tradition that had only recently reappeared in Lunel K'o—and its ability to heal.

Two years ago, he even built one beside his house. Eight feet wide and five feet tall, it was made of willow branches (he is a domestic sage and hybridized cactus and blueberries until it was straight and greenish black), says Ray. "In the middle of the floor, there's a pair of hot rocks, which you splash with water; then pray and sing. When the door is closed, it's completely sealed." On Feb. 9, Lawrence would begin experimenting with vocal emotion in the lodge, not so by himself. "It's unusual to make a sweet sound—but not terribly unusual considering who Lawrence," says Ray. "Writing songs like [he] in the prayer path, he'll sing, he'll sing, and he'll deliver." Preliminary rhapsody reveals about the level of carbon monoxide in his system as in the initial rite. Lawrence: Carbonic oxide 12.

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